

THE BELMAN OF LONDON.

Bringing to light the most notorious
villanies that are now practised
in the KINGDOME.

Profitable for Gentlemen, Lawyers, Merchants, Citizens, Farmers,
Masters of Households, and all sortes of seruants, to marke,
and delightfull for all men to Reade,

Lege, Perlege, Relege.



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THE
POORE BELMAN
OF LONDON.

To all those that either by Office are
Sworne to punish, or in their owne
loue to vertue, wish to haue the dis-
orders of a State amended,
humbly Dedicate these
his Discoueries.



T your *Gates* the *Belman* of London
beareth, to awaken your eyes, to
looke backe after certaine *Grand* and
common Abuses, that dayly walke by
you, keeping aloofe (in corners) out
of the reach of Law. It must be the
hand of your authority that must
fetch in these *Rebels* to the Weale-publike; and your
arme that must strike them. I chuse you as *Patrons*,
(not to my booke) but to defend me from those Mon-
sters, whole dennes I breake open in this my discouery.
More dangerous they are to a State, then a *Ciuill warre*,
because their villanies are more subtile and more endur-
ring. The *Belman* notwithstanding hath plaide the
Owle (who is the *Embleme* of wisdom) for sleeping in
the day, as abhorring to behold the impieties of this last

The Bel-mans Epistle.

and worst age of the world. In the night therefore hath he stolne forth, and with the helpe of his lanthorne and candle (by which is figured *Circumspection*) hath hee brought to light, that brood of milchiefe, which is ingendred in the wombe of darknesse. A monstrous birth is it, and therefore worthy to bee looked at: from monstrous Parents doth it proceede, and therefore the sight of it to bee fearefull. But of such rare temper are your eyes, that (as if they had Sunne-beames in them) they are able to exhale vp all these contagious breathes which poyson a Kingdome, and so to sperse them into thinn ayre, that they shall vtterly vanish, and bee no more offensive. In this blacke shore of mischiefe haue I sayled along, and beene a faithfull discouerer of all the Creekes, Rockes, Gulfes, and Quick-sands, in and about it: Bee you therefore as second aduenturers, and furnish men armed with Iustice, and well furnished in all points with a desire to Conquer these Sauages, and send them to set strong and fearefull footing amongst them. It shall be honour to your selues, and them, and a rich benefite to the *Republike* wherein you liue. For mine owne part, I vow, that as I *Dedicate* these my labours to your hands, so will I *Denote* my life to the safetie of my Countrey, in defending her from these Serpents: I will waste out mine eyes with my Candles, and watch from Midnight till the rising vp of the Morning; my *Bell* shall euer be Ringing, and that faithfull Seruant of mine (the Dogge that followes me) be euer biting of these wild Beasts, till they bee all driuen into one heard, and so hunted into the toyles of the *Law*. Accept therefore of this *Night-prize* (my *Grave* and worthy *Patrons*) drawne rudely, and presented boldly, becaule I know the colours laide vpon it, are not counterseite as those of borrowed beauties: but this is a picture of *Villanie*, drawne to the life, of purpose,
that

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that life might bee drawne from it. None can be offend-
ed with it, but such as are guiltie to themselves, that
they are such as are inrolde in this Muster Booke, for
whose anger, or whose stabbe I care not. At no mans
bosome doe I particularly strike, but onely at the body
of *Vice* in *Generall*. If my maner of *Fight* (with these dan-
gerous Masters of the *Ignoblest science* that euer was in a-
ny Kingdome) do get but applause, the *Belman*
shall shortly bid you to another *Prize*,
where you shall see him
play at other kind of
weapons.

Devoted night and day yours,

The BEL-MAN of

LONDON





A Table of the principall matters
contained in this Booke.

A Discourse of all the Idle Vagabonds of
England, their conditions, their lawes
amongst themselves, their Decrees and
Orders, their meetings and their maners of li-
uing (both men and women.)

A Discouerie of certaine secret Villanies,
which borrow to themselves the Names of
lawes.

As Cheating Law. Vincent's Law. Courbing Law. Lifting Law. Sacking Law. Five lumps at Leap-frogge.	Bernards Law. The blacke Art. As Prigging Law. High Law. Figging Law.
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THE



THE BEL-MAN OF LONDON,

Discovering the most notable
villanies now in the
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BNtring into a contemplation of the
Changes of Time, how all things that are
vnder the Moone are as variable as her
lookes are: how Goodnesse growes croo-
ked, and hath almost lost her shape: how
Vertue goes poozely and is not regarded:
how Villanie sets in Silkes, and (like a
God) adozed: And when I consider how
all the pleasures of this life are but as Childzens dzeames; how all
the glozies of the world are but artificiall fire-wozkes, that keepe a
blazing for a time, and yet die in stinking smokes: and how all the
labours of man are like the toiling of the winds, which strue to
cast vp heapes of dust, that in the end are not worth the gathering:
Then, enen then, doe I grow wearie of my selfe: then am I nei-
ther in loue with the beautie of the Sunne, neither stand I ga-
zing at the Dauncing of the starres: I neither wonder at the state-
ly measures of the clouds, the nimble galliards of the water, nor the
wanton trippings of the wind, nor am delighted when the earth
dresses vp her head with flowers; I wish my selfe a Beast, because
men are so bad, that Beasts excell them in goodnesse; and abhozre all
company, because the best is but tedious, the worser loathsome, both
are the destroyers of time, and both must be maintained woth cost.

The Be!-man of London.

Since then, that in the Noblest streames there are such Whirl-
 pooles to swa low vs bp, such Rockes that threaten danger, (if
 not ship-wracks,) and such Quick-sandes to make vs sinke,
 who would not willingly take downe all the sailes of his am-
 bition, and cast anchor on a safe and retired Shore, which is to bee
 found in no place, if not in the Countreie? O blessed life! pat-
 terne of that which our first Parents led, the state of Kings (now)
 being but a slavery to that of theirs. O school of contemplation!
 O thou picture of the whole world, drawne in a little compasse! O
 thou Perspective glasse, in whom we may behold vpon earth, all
 the frame and wonders of heauen! How happy (how thrice happie)
 is he that not playing with his wings in the golden flames of the
 Court, nor setting his foote into the busie throngs of the citie, nor
 running vp and downe in the intricate mazes of the law, can bee
 content in the winter to sit by a country fire, and the summer to lay
 his head on the greene pillores of the earth, where his sleepe shall
 be soft slumbers, and his walkings pleasant as golden dreams. Hast
 thou a desire to rule: get vp to the mountaines, and thou shalt see the
 greatest trees stand trembling before thee, to doe thee reuerence;
 those maiest thou call thy Nobles: thou shalt haue ranks of Dukes
 on each side of thee, which thou maiest call thy Guard: thou shalt see
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 terers: thou shalt see vallies humbled at thy seete, whom thou maiest
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 with those proud Summer Lords, when they are at the highest.
 Wouldst thou haue Subsidies paid thee: the Plow sends thee in
 Coyne, the Meadow giues thee her pasture, the Trees pay custome
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The admiration of these beauties made me so enamoured, and

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so really in love with the inheritance of them, that the flames of my affection were (in their burning) onely carried thither. So that in steade of paved streets, I trode the unbeaten pathes of the fields: the ranks of trees were to mee as great buildings: Lambes and skipping kids, were as my merrie companions: the cleare fountaine as my cupps of wine: rootes and hearbes as the Table of an Ordinarie: the Dialogues of Birds as the Scenies of a Play: and the open emptie Medowes as the proude and populous Citie. Thus did I wish to live, thus to die: and hauing wandred long (like a Timonist) hating men because they dishonoured their creation, At length fortune led mee by the hand into a place so curiously built by nature, as if it had beene the pallace where shee purposed none should lie but her selfe: It was a Grove set thicke with Trees, which grew in such order, that they made a perfect circle; insomuch, that I stood in feare, it was kept by Fayries, and that I was brought into it by enchantment. The branches of the Trees (like so many hands) reached ouer one to another; and in their embracements held so fast together, that their boughes made a goodly greene roose, which being touched by the wind, it was a pleasure to behold so large a feeling to moone: vpon every branch sat a consort of singers, so that every tree shewed like a musicke roome. The floore of this Summer-house was paved all ouer with yelow field-flowers, and with white and red Dazies, vpon which the Sunne casting but a wanton eye, you would haue thought the one had beene Payles of Gold, the other Studs of enamelled Siluer. Amazed I was when I did but looke into this little paradise, and afraid to enter, doubting whether it were some hallowed ground or no, for I could finde no path that directed me to it: neither the foote of any man, nor the hoole of any beast had beaten downe the grasse; for the blades of it stood so hie and so euen, as if their lengths had beene giuen them by one measure. The melody which the Birds made, and the varietie of all sorts of fruits which the trees promised, with the prettie and harmelesse murmuring of a shallow streame, running in windings thzough the midst of it (whose noyse went like a chime of Bells, charming the eyes to sleepe) put mee in minde of that Garden whereof our great grand-fire was the keeper. I then wept for sorrow to thinke he should be so foolish, as to bee driuen from a place of such happinesse: and blamed him in my minde for leauing such a president behind him, because

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because by his fall wee lost his felicitie, and by his frailtie, all men are now apt to vnder themselves and their posteritie through the intisements of women.

Into the Groue therefore at last I did venter, resolving to make it the temple where my thoughts should spend themselves in fruitfull contemplation: I purposed to diuide the day into Acts, as if the ground had bene a stage, and that the life which there I meant to lead, should haue bene but as a Play. Some of my holwyes should haue runne out in Speculation of the admirable workmanship of heauen, and of the orders which the Celestiall bodies are governed by: Some of my holwyes should haue caried me vp and downe the earth, and haue shewen vnto mee the qualities and proportions of the creatures that bꝛeade vpon it: at another time would I haue wꝛitten Satyres against the impietie of the world: At another, I would haue chaunted Roundelayes, in honour of the Countrey life. The rest of my time should haue fetched in pꝛouision for my body. These were appointed to bee my Acts in this goodly Theatre: the musicke betwene, were the Singers of the Wood; the audience such as Orpheus plaide vnto, and those were Mountaines and Trees, who (vnlesse the whispering winds trouble them with their noise) would haue been very attentive. But whilst I was setting forth to runne this Gaile, behold, casting vp mine eye, I espied a farre off certaine clouds of smoke, whose vapours ascended vp so blacke and thicke into the element, as if the sighes of hell had burst the bowels of the earth, and were flying vp toward heauen, to pull downe more vengeance. Before I saw this, I believed that this place had bene free from all resort: desirous therefore to learne who they were that neighbored so nie and in a solitarie wood, (that stood so farre from inhabited buildings) I kept for ward and came to the place, which (what by nature and what by Art) was so fenced about with Trees, quickset-hedges and bushes, which were growne so high, (that for the smoke) it was not possible to imagine how a house could there bee builded. There was but one path leading to it, which (after much searching and many turnings) being found, boldly went I on, and arrived at a homely Cottage: the very dooze of it, put me in minde of that poore Anne of good Baucis and Philaemon, where a god was a guest; for it was so low, that euen a dwarfe might haue seemed a tall man, entering into it; so much would it haue made him stoope. This house stood not like Great

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places, alwayes shut, but wide open, as if Bounty had been the porter, and being within, it seemed Hospitalitie dwelt there, and had giuen you welcome. For there was a table readie couered, with faire linnen; nut-brown round trenchers lay in good order, with bread and salt, keeping their state in the middle of the board. The roomie it selfe was not sumptuous but handsome, of indifferent bignesse, but not very large: the windowes were spred with hearbes, the chimney drest vp with greene boughes, and the floore strewed with bulrushes, as if some lasse were that moone to bee married: but neither saw I any bride or bride-groome, nor heard I any musicke: onely in the next roomie (which was the kitchen, and into which I went) was there as much stirring, as commonly is to be seene in a Booth, vpon the first day of the opening of a Fayre. Some late turning of spittes; and the place being all smoakie, made me thinke on hell, for the ioynts of meate lay as if they had bene broyling in the infernall fire, the turne-spittes, (who were poore tottered greasie fellows) looking like so many hee Diuels, Some were basting and seemed like senned powring scalding oyle vpon the damned: others were mincing of pye-meate, and shewelike hangmen cutting vp of quarters, whilst another whose eyes glowed with the heate of the fire, stood poaking in at the mouth of an Ouen, torturing soules as it were in the furnace of Lucifer. Where was such chopping of hearbes, such tossing of ladles, such plucking of geese, such scalding of pigges, such singing, such scolding, such laughing, such swearing, and such running to and fro, as if Pluto had that day bidden all his friends to a feast, and that these had bene the Cookes that drest the dinner.

At the last, espying an olde nimble-tongd belldame who seemed to haue the commaund of the place, to her I stepped, and in faire tearmes requested to know the name of the dwelling, why this great chere was prouided, and who were the Guests, for as yet I saw no body but this Band of the Black Guard. In stead of her tongue, her eyes (that had started back a good way into her head as if they durst not looke out) made mee an answer. I perceived by her very countenance, that I was not welcome, which after wards she confirmed in words, telling me the place was not for me, the feast was for others, and that I must instantly be gone, for that a strange kind of people were that day to be merrie there. No more
thoricke

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thozicke that I could vse, had power to win her to discover who these Guests should be, till at the length, a Bribe preuailing more than a Barlee, she told me I should be a Spectator of the Comedy in hand, and in a private gallerie behold all the Actors, vpon condition I would sit quietly and say nothing. And for that purpose was I conuied into an upper loft, where (vnsene) I might (through a wooden Lattice that had the prospect of the dining roome) both see and heare all that was to be done or spoken.

There lay I like a Scout to discover the coming of the expected enemy, who was to set vpon this good cheere, and to batter downe the walles of hot Wines and Pasties. Mine eyes euen aked with staring towards the doore, to spy when these States should enter, ducking downe with their heades like so many Geese going into a Barne. At Length (with bagge and baggage) they came dropping in one after another, sometimes three in a company, sometimes five, now more, now lesse, till in the end the great hall was so full that it swarmed with them. I know you woult, and haue longing thoughts to know what Generation this is, that liued in this hospitable familiaritie: but let me tell you they are a people for whom the world cares not, neither care they for the world they are all freemen, yet scorne to liue in Cities: great travellers they are, and yet neuer from home, poore they are, and yet haue their dyet from the best mens tables. They are neither old Seruingmen (for all I say they are poore) that haue beene Courtiers, and are now past carping of cloake-bagges, nor yong gallants that haue serued in the Low countries, (albeit many of them goe vpon wadden legges) nor hungry scholars, that all their life time haue kept a wangling in the Scholes, and in the end are glad to teach Children their Horne-bookes: neither are they decayed Poets, whose wits like a fooles Land, hold out but a twelue moneth, and then they liue vpon the scraps of other mens inuentions: no nor Players they bee, who out of an ambition to weare the best Jerkin (in a strowling company) or to act great partes, forsake the stateley and our more than Romanie Citie Stages, to travell vpon the hard horse, from village to village for cheese and butter-milk: neither are they any of these terrible noises (with threethbare cloakes) that lye tyed lattises and Iuy-bushes, hauing authoritie to thrust into any mans

roome

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came onely speaking but this, Will you haue any musicke? Neither are they Cittizens that haue bene blowne vp (without Gunpowder) and by that meanes haue bene free of the Grate at Ludgate, some five times: no, no, this is a Ging of good fellows in whome there is more brother hood: this is a Crew that is not the Damned Crew (for they walke in Sattin) but this is the Ragged Regiment: Villaines they are by birth, Varlets by education, Knaues by profession, Beggers by the Statute, and Rogues by act of Parliament. They are the idle Drones of a Countrie, the Caterpillers of a Common-wealth, and the Egyptian lice of a Kingdom. And albeit that at other times their attire was fitting to their trade of lining, yet now were they all in handsome cleane linnen, because this was one of their Quarter dinners; for you must vnderstand, that (as after ward I learnt by intelligence) they hold these solenne meetings in foure seuerall seasons of the yere at least, and in seuerall places to auoide discovery.

The whole assembly being thus gathered together, One amongst the rest, who toke vpon him a Sencoritic ouer the rest, charg'd every man to answer to his name, to see if the Jury were full: the Bill by which he meant to call them being a double iug of ale (that had the spirit of Aqua vitæ in it, it smelt so strong) and that he helde in his hand: Another standing by with a toast, Nutmeg and Ginger, ready to cry Vous-aucez as they were calde, and all that were in the roome hauing single pots by the eares, which like Pistols were charged to goe off so soone as euer they bearde their names. This Ceremony being set abroach, an O-yes was made: But hee that was Rector Chori (the Captaine of the Tatterdemalions) spying one to march vnder his colours, that had neuer before serued in these lowly warres, paused a while, (after hee had taken his first draught, to tast the dexteritie of the liquoz) and then began I (Justice-like) to examine this Yonger Brother vpon Interrogatories.

The first question hee demanded, was, if hee were stalled to the Rogue or no: the poore Hungarian answered yes, hee was: then was hee asked by whome hee was stalled, and where, and in what manner of complement it was done: to which question the notice hauing not so much beggarly knowledge as might make a learned reply, forthwith did the wicked Elder command the pong Slaunions that stood about him, to disfigure him that was

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was so unskillfull in the Rudiments of Roderic, of his best garment and to carie it presently to the Bowlin Ken (that was to say to the Tap-house) and there to pawne it for so much strong Ale, as could be ventur'd vpon it. Thus the chiefe Rag-a-muffen gaue in charge, the rest obeyed and did so, whilst the other suffered himselfe to be first and durst not resist their bale authoritie.

This done, the Grand Signiour called for a Cage of Wolfe, which belike signified a quart of drinke, for presently a pot of Ale being put into his hand, he made the yong Squire kneele downe, and pointing the full pot on his pate, vttered these words. I doe stalle thee to the Rogue, by vertue of this Soueraigne English li- quor, so that henceforth it shall be lawfull for thee to Cant (that is to say) to be a Vagabond and Beg, and to speake that Pedlers French, or that Canting language, which is to be found among none but beggars: with that the stalled Gentleman rose, all the rest in the roome hanging vpon him for toy, like so many Doggs about a Beare, & leaping about him with shewts like so many mad-men.

But a Silence being proclaimed, all were hushed, whilst Heo that plaide the Paister Devils part amongst these Hell-boundes, after a shrug or two giuen, thus began to speake to him that was new entred into the damned fraternitie. Brother Begger (quoth he) because thou art yet but a meere freshman in our Colledge, I charge thee to hang thine eares to my lips, and to learne the orders of our house, which thou must obserue, vpon paine either to be beaten with our Cudgels the next time thou art met, or else to be stript out of any garments that are worth the taking from thee. First therefore (being no better then a plaine ordinarie Rogue, marrie in time thou maiest rise to moze preferment amongst vs) thou art not to wander vp and downe all Countries, but to walke onely like an Vnderkeeper of a forest in that quarter which is allotted vnto thee, Thou art likewise to giue way to any of vs that haue bozne all the offices of the Mallet befoze thee, and vpon holding vp a finger, to auoide any towne or countrie Village, where thou seest we are foraging to victuall our armie that march along with vs, For (my pooze Villiaco) thou must know, that there are degrees of Superioritie and Inferioritie in our Societie, as there are in the proudest company. We haue amongst vs some eightene or nineteene seuerall offices for men, and about seven or eight for women: The
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chiefest of vs are called Vprightmen, (I my deere Sun-burnt-brother, if all those that are the chiefest men in other companies were Vprightmen too, what good dealing would there be in all occupations?) The next are Rufflers, then haue we Anglers, but they seldom catch fish till they goe by west-ward for flounders: then are there Rogues, (which liuerie thou thy selfe wearest:) next are wilde Rogues, then Priggers, then Palliards: then Fraters, Then Tom of Bedlams band of mat-caps, other wise called Poore Toms flocke of wilde-geese (whom here thou seest by his blacke and blew naked armes, to be a man beaten to the world) and those wilde-geese or haire-braines are called Abraham-men: in the next squadron march our bzaue Whip-iacks at: the taile of them come rattling our counterfeitt Crankes: in another troop are Gabling Domereis, then Curtals follow at their heeles, and they bring along with them strange Enginers, called Irish-Toyles: After whom follow the Swigmen, the Iarkemen, the Patricoes, and last the Kinchin-Coes. These are the tottered Regiments, that make vp our maine armie. The victualers to the Campe are women, and of those, some are Glymerers, some Bawdy-Baskets, some Autem-Morts: others Walking-morts: some Dopers, others are Dels, the last and least are called Kinchin-morts, with all which Comrades, thou shalt in thy beggerly peregrination, meete, conuerse, and be drinke, and in a short time know their natures and roguish conditions without the helpe of a Tutor. At these wordes the victuals came smoaking into the Hall to be set vpon the boord, whereupon the whole swarme squatted downe, being as vntrimm'd in maners, as vnhandsome in apparell, onely the Vprightmen and Rufflers had the graine of the boord giuen them, and sat at upper end of the table: the rest tooke their trenchers as they hapned into their hands, yet so, y^e euery knaue had his Queane close by his side.

The Table being thus furnished both with Guests and meate, in steede of Grace euery one drew out a knife, rapt out a round oath, and cried Proface you mad Rogues, and so fell too. They fed more hungerly, than if they had come from the siege of Jerusalem: not a word was heard amongst them for a long time, onely their teeth made a noyse, as if so many spils had bene grinding, Rats going to the assault of a Holland cheese could not more balliantly lay about them: nay, my Lord Spayres Hounds at the dog-house be-
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ing bidden to the funerall banquet of a dead horse, could not picke the bones cleaner: At length when the platters began to looke leane, and their bellies grew plump: then went their tongues: But such a noise made they, such a confusion was there of beggerly tales some gabling in their Canting language, others in their owne, that the scolding at ten Conduits, and the gossiping of fiftene Bake-houses was delicate musicke to it. At the length, drunken healthes reeled vp and downe the Table, and then it would haue made a Whistion himselfe sicke, but to haue looked vpon the waters that came from them. The whole roome shewed a far off (but that there was heard such a noise) like a Dutch piece of Drollery, for they sat at Table as if they had bene so many Antickes: A Painters prentise could not draw worse faces than they themselves made, besides those which God gaue them: no, no, a Painter himselfe vary a picture into more strange & more ill-fauoured gestures, than were to be seene in the action of their bodies: for some did nothing but wepe and protest loue to their Morts, another swore daggers and knives to cut the throte of his Dopye, if hee found her tripping: Some slept being drowned so deepe in Ale-dregs, that they flauered again: others sung bawdy songs, another crew deuised curses vpon Iustices of Peace, Head-borough and Constables, grinning their teeth so hard together for anger, that the grating of a saw in a stone cutters yard, when it files in sunder the ribs of Marble, makes not a more horrible noise. In the end one who tooke vpon him to bee Speaker to the whole house, (bidding the French & English por on their pelping throats,) cryed out for silence, telling them it was his turne (according to the customes of their meeting) to make an Oration in praise of Beggerie, and of those that professe the trade. Whereupon (as if an Owle had happened amongst so many birds) all their eyes did presently stare vpon him: who thus began.

My noble hearts, old weather-beaten fellows, and braue English Spirits, I am to giue you that which all the land knowes you iustly deserue (a Roguish commendation) and you shall haue it. I am to giue Beggers their due praise yet what need I do that, since no man, I thinke, will take any thing from them that is their due. To bee a Begger is to be a Braue man, because tis now in fashion for very braue men to Beg. No but what a Rogue am I to build vp your honors vpon examples: doe wee not all

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come into the world like errant Beggars, without a rag vpon vs: doe wee not all goe out of the world like Beggars, sauing onely an olde sheete to couer vs: and shall wee not walke by and dolour in the world like Beggars, with olde blankets pind about vs: yes, yes we will, roared all the Kennell as though it had beene the dogs of Palace Garden: Peace cries the Penelesse Orator, and with a Hem procedes.

What though there be statutes to Burre vs ith eares for Rogues: to Sindge vs ith hand for pilferers: to Whippe vs at posts for being Beggars, and to Shackle our heeles ith stocks for being idle Vagabonds: what of this: Are there not other statutes more sharpe then these to punish the rest of the subiects, that scoorne to be our companions: What though a prating Constable, or a red nos'd beadle say to one of vs, Sirra Goodman Rogue, if I serued you well I should see you whipped thorough the towne: Alas, Alas, Silly Animals, if all men shou'd haue that which they deserue, we should doe nothing but play the Executioners and tormenters one of another.

A number of Taylors would bee damnd for keeping a Hell vnder their Shop-hoord: all the Brokers would make their Wils at Tiborne, if the searching for stolne goods which they haue receiued, should like a plague but once come amongst them: yea, if all were serued in their right kind, two parts of the land should bee whipped at Bridewell for Lecherie, and three parts (at least) be set ith stocks for drunkennesse. The life of a Begger is the like of a Souldier: he suffers hunger and cold Win inter, and heate and thirst in Summer: he goes lowse he goes lame, he's not regarded, he's not rewarded: here onely shines his glory: The whole Kingdome is but his walke, a whole Citie is but his Parish, in euery mans Kitchin is his meate drest, in euery mans Sellar lyes his beere, and the best mens purses keepe a penny for him to spend.

Since then the profession is ancient (as hauing beene from the beginning) and so generall, that all sorts of people make it their last refuge: Since a number of Artificers maintaine their houses by it, Since wee and many a thousand more liue merrily with it, let vs my byane Tawny-faces, not glue by our patched Clokes: nor change our coppies, but as wee came beggars out of our mothers bellies, so resolute and set by your Raues vpon this, to returne like
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beggers into the bowels of the Earth Dixi.

Scarce was the word Dixi belch'd out of his rotten Allplungs, but all the Bench-whistlers from one end to the other gave a ringing Plaudite to the Epilogue of his speech, in signe of approbation: whereupon they rose up as confusedly as they sate downe, and hauing payde so farre as their purses would stretch for what they had deuoured, making Oes in chalke for the rest when they met there next, and euery man with his Mot being assigned to their quarter, which order giuen, at what following Fates to make hands and what Ale-bush to tipple with Items likewise giuen where to strike downe Geese, where to steale Hennes, and from what hedge to fetch sheetes, that may serue as pawnes, Away they departed.

Turba Grauis paci, placidaq, inimica Quietis.

So sooner were there backs turned, but I that all this while had stood in a corner (like a watching candle) to see all their villanies, appeared in my likenesse; and finding the Coast to be perfectly cleare, none remaining in the house but the Hostesse to these Guests, her did I summon to a second parley. The spirit of her owne malt walkt in her bzaire-pan, so that what with the sweetness of gaires which she had gotten by her marchant venturers, and what with the fumes of drinke, which (like a lustie gale to a Wind-mill) set her tongue in going, I found her apt for talke, and taking hold of this oportunitie, after some intreaty to discover to me what these Uprightmen, Rufflers, and the rest were, with their severall qualities, and maners of life, Thus she began.

¶ An Vpright-man.

Y Du shall vnderstand then (quoth she) that the chiefeest of those that were my Tablemen to day, are called Upright-men, whose picture I will draw to the life before you: An Upright-man is a sturdy big-bonnde knaue, that neuer walkes but (like a commander) with a short Truncheon in his hand, which hee calls his Filchman. At Markets, faires, and other meetings, his voice among Beggers is of the same sound that a Constables is of: it is not to bee controld. He is free of all the Shiers in England, but neuer stales in any place long, the reason is, his profession is to bee

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sole, which being looked into, hee knowes is punishable, and therefore to auoide the whip hee wanders. If hee come to a Farmers doore, the almes hee begges is neither meate nor drinke, but onely money: if any thing else be offered to him, hee takes it with disdain and layes it vnder a hedge for any foate come next: but in reuenge of this, if hee spie any Geese, Hennes, Ducks, or such like walking spirits haunting the house, with them hee contures about midnight, vsing them the next morning like traytors, either beheading them or quartering them in pieces: for which purpose, this band of Vprightmen seldome march without flue or fire in a companie, so that Country people rather giue them money for feare then out of any deuotion. After this bloody massacre of the poore innocent Bullen, the Actors in their bloody Tragedy, repaire to their Stalling kennes, and those are tipling houses, which will lend money vpon any stolne goods, and vnto which none but such guests as these resort: there the spits goe round, and the Cannes walke by and downe, there haue they their Morts and their Dopyes, with whome (after they haue Bowled profoundly) they lie (in stead of Feather-beds vpon Litters of cleane Straw) to encrease the Generation of Rogues and Beggars: For these Vprightmen stand so much vpon their reputation, that they scozne any Mort or Dopye should be seene to walke with them; and indeed what neede they care for them, when they may command any Dopye to leaue another man and to lye with them; the other not daring to murmur agaiust it. An Vprightman will seldome complaine of want, for whatsoener any one of his profession doth steale, hee may challenge a share of it, yea, and may command any inferiour Rogue to fetch in booty to serue his turne. These cary the shapes of souldiers, and can talke of the Low-countries, though they neuer were beyond Douer.

¶ A Ruffler.

THe next in degree to him is cald a Ruffler: the Ruffler and the Vprightmen are so like in conditions, that you would sweare them Brothers: they walke with Cudgels a like, they profess armes a like, though they bee both out at elbowes, and will sweare they lost their limbes in their Countries quarrell, when ei-

ther

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ther they are **Lamben** or **Seales**, or haue been mangled in some drunken quarrell: These commonly are fellows that haue had a loose in the warres, and whilst other fought, they tooke their heeles and ranne away from their Captaine, or else they haue bin Seruingmen, to whome for their behaviour, no man would trust with a **Livertie**: if they cannot spend their dayes to their minds by their owne begging or robbing of Country people that come late from **Markets** (for vpon those they most usually exercise their trade) then do they compel the inferior subjects of their common-wealth, (as **Rogues** **Palliards**, **Morts**, **Dopyes** &c.) to pay tribute vnto them. A **Ruffler** after a yeare or two takes state vpon him, and becomes an **Vprightman** (but an honest man.)

¶ An Angler.

A Angler is a limb of an **Vprightman**, as being deriued from him: their apparell in which they walke is commonly **Fret**;e **Jerkins** and gally **Slops**: in the day time they beg from house to house, not so much for reliefe, as to spee what lies at for their nets, which in the night following they fish for. The **Rod** they angle with, is a staffe of five or six foote in length, in which within one inch of the top is a little hole bored quite through, into which hole they put an yron hooke, and with the same doe they angle at windowes about midnight, the draught they pluck vp, being apparell, sheetes, coverlets, or whatsoeuer their yron hooke can lay hold of: which prize when they haue gotten, they doe not presently make sale of it but after foure or five dayes, or according as they suspect, inquirie will be made after it, do they bring such goods to a **Broker**, (traded vp for the purpose) who lends vpon them halfe so much money as they bee worth, which notwithstanding serues the Angler a while for spending money, and enriches him that buyes it for a long time after.

¶ A Rogue.

A Rogue is knowne to all men by his name, but not to all men by his conditions, no **Puritane** can dissemble more then hee, for hee will speake in a lamentable **Tune** and **crawle** along the **Streets**,

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Stréetes, (supporting his body by a staffe) as if there were not
 life enough in him to put strength into his legges: his head shall
 be bound about with Linnen, loathsome to behold, and as filthy in
 colour as the complexion of his Face: his apparell is all Tatter-
 ed, his bosome Naked, and most commonly no Shirt on: not that
 they are driven to this miserie by meere want, but that if they had
 better Clothes given them, they would rather sell them to some of
 their owne Fraternitie then weare them, and wander vp and
 downe in that pitious maner, onely to moue people to compassion,
 and to be relieved with Money, which being gotten, at night is
 spent as merily and as lewoly, as in the day it was wonne by coun-
 terfeite villanie. Another Sect there be of these, and they are called
 Sturdy Rogues: these walke from Countrey to Countrey vnder
 colour of Travelling to their Friends, or to finde out some Kins-
 man, or else to deliuer some letter to one Gentleman or other, whose
 name he will haue fairely endorled on Paper, folded vp for that pur-
 pose, and handsomely Sealed: others vse this Shift, to carie a Certi-
 ficate or Pasport about them, with the hand and Seale of some Ju-
 stice to it, giuing notice how hee hath bene whipped for a Waga-
 bond, according to the Lawes of the Realme, and that he is now to
 returne to such a place where he was borne, or dwelt last, by a cer-
 taine day limited, which is sure to be set downe long enough, for all
 these writings are but counterfeite, they hauing amongst them (of
 their owne Kanke) that can write and reade, who are the Secreta-
 ries in this businesse. These fellows haue fingers as nimble as
 the Vpright-man, and haue their Wenches and meeting places,
 where whatsoeuer they get they spend, and whatsoeuer they spend
 is to satisfie their lust: some of this broode are called Curtals, because
 they weare short cloakes: their company is dangerous, their
 liues detestable, and their ends miserable.

¶ A milde Rogue.

The Tame Rogue begets a Wilde Rogue, and this is a spi-
 rit that cares not in what circle he rises, nor into the compa-
 ny of what Diuels hee falls: in his swabbling clouts is hee mar-
 ked to be a villaine, and in his breeding is instructed to bee so: the
 mother of him (who was deliuered of her burden vnder a hedge)
 either

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either traueſſing with him at her backe, or elſe leading him in her hand, and will rather endure to ſee his aines beaten out, then to haue him taken from her, to be put to an honeſt courſe of life. So emulous they are and ſo much doe they ſcorne any profeſſion but their owne: they haue been Rogues themſelues, and diſdaine that their Children ſhould be otherwiſe. Theſe Wilde Rogues (like wilde geſe) keepe in flocks and all the day loyter in the fields, if the weather be warme, and at Brick-hills, or elſe diſperſe themſelues in colde weather, to rich mens doores, and at night haue their meetings in Barnes or other out places, where (twenty or moze in a company) they ingender male or female, euery one catching her whome he doth beſt fancy, the ſtronger and moze ſturdy, keeping the weaker in ſubiection: their language is bawdy talke, damned oathes, and plots where to filch the next morning, which they perſorme betimes: riſing as early as the Sunne and enioying their punches to looke out for cheates, to make their meeting at night the merrier.

¶ A Prigger of Prancers.

A Prigger of Prancers is a horſe ſtealer: for to Prig, ſignifies in the Canting language to ſteale, and Prancer ſignifies a horſe. Theſe walke (in ſcrie or leather Jerkins) with a wand in their hands, watching in what paſture any horſes fit for their turne, and thoſe within three or foure nights after are conueied away at the leaſt 60 miles from the place: if they meete the owners in their ground, they haue ſhifts to auoid his ſuſpition by ſaying they haue loſt their way to ſuch a Towne. Theſe Hackney men that let out horſes will requeſt ſeruite at Gentlemens houſes, their ſkill being to keepe a Gelding well, and if they get entertainment, they ſtand to their word, for they keepe the Gelding ſo well, that his Maſter ſhall neuer finde fault with any diſeaſe hee hath, unleſſe it be that hee had the diſynes in his head, which made him reele out of his ſtable to bee ſold forty miles off at a faire. Theſe haue their female ſpyes that ſuruey medowes and Cloſes, and long onely for horſe fleſh.

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¶ A Palliard.

A Palliard comes next into my minde, and he likewise is called a Clapperdugon: his upper garment is an old cloake made of as many peeces, patched together, as there bee villanies in him: this Palliard neuer goes without a Mort at his heeles whome he calles his wife. Being either in the Streete of a Cittie, or in a country vilage, they deuide themselves, and beg almes at severall doozes, but whatsoeuer is gotten (be it bread, chéese, malt, or wool) they sell it to some Rogue or other, and with the money are merrie at a Bowling Ken. A Palliard carries about him (for feare of the worst) a Certificate (vnder a Ministers hand, with the parishs name, which shall be sure to stand farre enough) where this Mort and hee were married, when all is but forged: many Irishmen are of this lowlie Regiment, and some Welchmen: And the better either to draw pittie from men, as also to glue colour to their lame wandring, with Sperewort or Arsenick will they in one night popson their leg, be it neuer so sound, and raise a blister, which at their pleasure they can take off againe.

¶ A Frater.

A Frater is a brother of as damnd a broode as the rest: his office is to trauell with a long wallet at his backe, and a black bore at his girtle, wherein is a patent to beg for some Hospitall or Spittle house: many of which patents (especially if they be in paper or parchment with out the Great Seale) are counterfeited. And those that are not so, serue the Bearers of them but as instruments to play the knaves by: for though they get neuer so much, the poore creatures for whome they beg, receiue little of it, they lye soaking with a Dopye in a tipling house, whilst the spittle wretches are ready to starue for sustenance at home: let country women, returning from Markets if they be alone and in a dangerous place, take heed of these Proctors, for they haue the Art to vnborse them, and a conscience to send them packing without any penny in their purses.

¶ A Quire.

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¶ A Quire-bird.

Y^OU^R Quire-birds are such as haue sung in such Cages as Newgate, or a Countrie Gaole, and hauing their belles giuen them to fly, they seke presently to build their nests vnder some honest mans roofe, not with intent to bring him in any profit, but onely to put themselues into money or apparell (though it bee by filching) and then they take their flight.

¶ An Abraham-man.

OF all the mad Rascalls (that are of this wing) the Abraham-man is the most fantasticke: The fellow (quoth this old Lady of the Lake vnto me) that sat halfe naked (at table to day) from the girdle vpward, is the best Abraham-man that euer came to my house, and the notablest villaine: he sweares he hath bene in Bedlam, and will talke frantickly of purpose: you see pinnes stuck in sundrie places of his naked flesh, especially in his armes, which paine he gladly puts himselfe to (being indeede no torment at all, his skin is either so dead with some souldie disease, or so hardened with weather, onely to make you beleue he is out of his wits) he calls himselfe by the name of poore Tom, and comming neere any body, cries out, Poore Tom is a-cold. Of these Abraham-men, some be exceeding merry, and doe nothing but sing songs, fashioned out of their owne braines; some will dance, others will doe nothing but either laugh or wepe; others are dogged, and so sullen both in looke and speech, that spying but a small company in a house, they boldly and bluntly enter, compelling the seruants through feare to giue them what they demaund, which is commonly Bacon, or some thing that will yeeld ready money. The Vpright-man, and the Rogue are not terribler enemies to poultry ware, than poore Tom is: neither does any man shift cleane linnen oftner than hee does his wenches.

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¶ A Whipiacke.

Then there is another sort of nimble-fingred knaues, and they are called Whipiacks: who talke of nothing but fights at sea, piracies, drownings, and shipwacks, travelling both in the shape and names of Mariners, with a counterfeit Licence to beg from towne to towne, which licence they call a Gybe, and the seales to it, Iarkes. Their colour of wandring from shire to shire, (especially along the Sea coasts) is to hearken after their Ship that was ouerthrowne, or for the marchandise stolne out of her, but the end of their land voyages, is to rob Bothes at faires, which they call heauing of the Booth. These Whipiacks will talke of the Indies, and of all Countreies that lie vnder heauen, but are indeed no more but fresh-water Souldiers.

¶ A Counterfet Cranke.

BAfter in habit, and more vile in condition than the Whipiacke, is the Counterfet cranke: who in all kind of weather going halfe naked, staring wildly with his eyes, and appearing distracted by his looks, complaining onely that he is troubled with the falling sicknesse: albeit you giue them clothes, they will weare none, but rather with those rags which they haue hanging about them should bee made loathsome by myse, or their naked bosome and armes to appeare full of bruses, and to be bloudy with falling, thereby to kindle in men the greater compassion: to cause that foaming in their mouthes, (which is fearefull to behold by the standers by) they haue this trick; priuily to conuey a peece of white soape into one corner of their Jawes, which causeth the froth to come boyling forth. These Crankes haue likewise their meetings, and their wenches at comm:au: d.

¶ A Drummerar.

EQuall to the Cranke in dissembling is the Drummerar, for as the other takes vpon him to haue the falling sicknesse, so this counterfeits Dumbnesse, but let him be whipped well, & his tongue
(which

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(which he doubles in his mouth, and so makes a hoized and strange noise in stead of speech) will walke as fast as his handes toe, when he comes where any bootie is.

¶ A Iack-man and a Patrico.

And because no common wealth can stand without some Learning in it! Therefore are there some in this Schoole of Beggers, that practise writing and reading, and those are called Iackemen: yea, the Iack-man is so cunning sometimes that hee can speake Latine: which learning of his, lifts him vp to advancement, for by that meanes he becomes Clarke of their Hail, and his office is to make counterfeitt licences, which are called Gybes, to which he puts seales, and those are termed Iarkes. This Iack-man (for his knowledge) is halfe-fellow well met with a Patrico, who amongst Weggars is their priest, every hedge being his parish, every wandering Harlot and Rogue his parishioner, the service hee takes, is onely the marrying of couples, which he does in a wood under a tree, or in the open field, and the solemnitie of it is thus: The parties to be wedded, finde out a dead horse, or any other beast, and standing one on the one side, and the other on the other, the Patrico bids them to lue together till death them part: & so shaking handes, the wedding dinner is kept at the next Ale-house they stumble into, where the musicke is nothing but knocking with kannes, and their dances none but drunken Brawles.

¶ An Irish Toyle.

In this Forrest of Wildemen the safest Toyle to pite is the Irish Toyle, which is a net so strongly and cunningly woren together, that they who goe a hunting with it, catch the Commonwealth, and Cunncatch the subjects: for an Irish Toyle is a sturdy vagabond, who scorning to take paines that may make him sweate, stalkes onely vp and downe the Country with a wallet at his backe, in which he carries laces, pinnes, points, and such like, and under colour of selling such wares, both passeth to and fro quietly, and so commits many villanies as if were by warrant.

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¶ A Swigman.

Like unto him in condition is a Swigman or Pedler, carrying a packe behind him in stead of a wallet: their trades are all one, sauing that the Swigman is somewhat better in behauiour, though little differing in honestie. They both stand in feare of the Vpright-man, and are forced oftentimes to pay him toale out of their packs.

¶ A Kinchin Co.

The last ranke of these Runnagates, is filld vp with Kinchin Coes; and they are little boyes, whose parents (hauing bene Beggars) are dead, or else such as haue runne away from their Masters, and in stead of a trade to liue by, follow this kind of life to belowse by. These Kinchins, the first thing they do, is to learne how to Cant, and the onely thing they practise, is to creepe in at windowes or Cellar doores.

A Kinchin
Mort.

A Dell.

Thus haue I opened vnto you halfe the nest of this generation of Wipers; now will I discover the other halfe, wherein is a byrde of Serpents, as dangerous and as loathsome as these; of which, the young ones and the least are called Kinchin-Morts, and those are Girles of a yere or two old, which the Morts (their mothers) carrie at their backes in their slates (which in the Canting tongue are sheetes) if they haue no children of their owne, they will steale them from others, and by some meanes disfigure them, that by their parents they shall neuer be knowne. The second Bird of this feather is a Del, and that is a pong wench, ripe for the act of Generation, but as yet not spoyled of her maiden-head: these Dels are reserued as dishes for the Vpright-men, for none but they must haue the first taste of them, and after the Vpright-men haue deflowred them (which commonly is when they are very pong) then are they free for any other of the brotherhood, and are called Dells no more, but Dopers. Of these Dells, some are termed Wilde Dells, and those are such as are bozne and begotten vnder a hedge: the other are pong wenches, that either by death of parents, the villanie of Executors, or the crueltie of masters and mistresses, fall

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fall into this infamous and damnable course of life. When they have gotten the title of Dopyes, then are they common for any, and walke for the most part with their betters (who are a degree above them) called Morts, but whensoever an Vpright-man is in presence, the Doxie is onely at his commaund: These Daxies will for good victuals, or a small peece of money, prostitute their bodies to serving-men, if they can get into any convenient corner about their maisters houses, and to ploughmen in barnes, hay-lofts or stables: they are common pick-pockets, familiars with the baser sorts of cut-purses, and oftentimes secret murtherers of those infants, which are begotten of their bodies. These Dopyes have one especiall badge to be knowne by, for most of them goe working of laces, and shirt-strings, or such like stuffe, onely to giue colour to their idle wandring.

A Dopye.

Of Morts there be two kinds, that is to say, A walking Mort and an Autem Mort: the Walking Mort is of more antiquitie than a Dopye, and therefore of more knauerie: they both are unmarried, but the Doxie professeth her selfe to be a maid, (if it come to examination) and the Walking Mort, saies shee is a widow, whose husband dyed either in the Portugal voyage, was slayne in Ireland, or the Low-countrie, or come to his ende by some other ill-fortune, leauing her so many small infants on her hand, in debt: whom not being able by her honest labour to maintaine, she is compelled to beg. These Walking Morts trauell from countrie to countrie, making laces (upon stauces) and small purses, and now and then white vallance for beds: Subtill queanes, they are hard-hearted, light fingered, cunning in dissembling, and dangerous to be met, if any Ruffler or Rogue be in their company. They feare neither God nor good lawes, but onely are kept in awe by the Vpright men, who often times spoyle them of all they haue, which to prevent, the Walking Morts vse this policy: they leane their money (sometime five shillings, sometimes ten shillings) in seuerall shires, with some honest Farmers wife or others whom they knowe they may trust, and when they trauell that way againe, at halfe yeres end, or a quarters, fetch it to serue their turnes, but dare neuer goe in good clothes, least the Vpright-men either strip them into rags, or else starke naked as they vse to doe.

A Walking Mort.

An Autem Mort, is a woman married, (for Autem in the Beggers

An Autem Mort.

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gers language is a Church: these Morts seldome keepe with their husbands, but are from them sometimes a moneth or two. yet neuer walke they without a man in their company, and boyes and girles at their heeles, of ten or twelue yeeres old, whom they employ at windowes of houses in the night time, or earely in the mornings, to pilfer away any thing that is worth the carrying away, which (in their tongue) they call Nilling of the Ken. These Autem Morts walke with wallets on their shoulders, and Slates (or shertes) at their backs, in which they vse to lie. Their husbands commonly are Rufflers, Vprightmen, or Wilde Rogues, and their companions of the same breede.

A Bawdy
Aasket.

There is another Parrot, (in this Bird-cage) whose feathers are more sleek, and tongue more smooth than the rest, and shee is called A bawdy Basket: These Bawdy baskets are women that walke with baskets or cap-cases on their armes, wherein they haue laces, pinnes, needles, white inkle, tape, round white silke girdles, and such like: these will buy Conny Skins, and in the meane time steale linnen or pewter: they are saire spoken, and will seldome sweare whilst they are selling their wares, but lye with any man that hath a minde to their commodities. The Vpright-men and these hold such league together, that whatsoever they haue, is common to them both, and oftentimes will they with money relieue one another.

Demanders of
Glymmer.

The selfe same Truce is taken betwene the Vpright-men and the Demanders of Glymmer, that is to say, (those who trauell by and downe with licences to begge, because their houses haue beene consumed with fire, for Glymmer (in canting) signifies fire: These Glymmerring Morts are so tender hearted, that they shed teares, if they make but mention of their losses, and tell a lamentable storie, how the fire destroyed their barnes, stables &c. all that they speake being mere lyes: they likewise carrie wallets at their backs, and are onely attended vpon and defended by the Vpright-men, who neuer walke along with them through any towne, but keepe aloofe.

And these (quoth the Hostesse of the Beggers) are all of the cheefest (both Hee-diuels and Shee-diuels) that dance in this large circle. I haue brought you acquainted with their names, their natures, their tradings, and their traffick: if you haue a desire to know

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Know moze of them, you shall find whole congregations of them at Saint Quintens, the Three-cranes in the Vintry, Saint Tybs, and at Knapsburie which saue places are foure severall barnes within one mile compasse neere London, being but flack-names ginen to them by the Vprightmen: In those Innes do they lodge euerie night; In those do Vprightmen lye with Morts and turne Dells in Doxyes (that is to say, rauish yong wenches) whilst the Kogue is glad to stand at reuerſion and to take thers leauings. In Middlesex likewise stand foure other Harbours for them, namely Draw the pudding out of the fire, (which is in the parish of Harrow on the Hill) The crosse keyes, (which is in Craneford parish,) Saint Iulians, (which is in Thistleworth parish) And the house of Pittie in Northall Parish. The Kings barne neere Darford, and Keibrooke neere blackheath, are likewise houses of good receit for them: In all shieres haue they such Innes as these; and in all them and these recited, shall you find sometimes 40. Vprightmen together, singendyng beggers with their Morts. No sinne but is here committed without shame, Adultery is common amongst them, Incest but laughed at, Sodomy made a test: At these Hauens doe they cast anchor boldly, because none are by to barre their entrance; yea, those that are owners of these Barnes and Backhouses, dare not but giue welcome to these Vnruly Guests; for if they should not, they would at one time or other set fire of their houses, or by bloudy and trecherous practises take away their liues. For this cause, sir, (quoth she) am I glad to looke smilingly vpon them, and to play the Hostesse because my abiding stands so farre from company; yet I protest (quoth she) I hate the sight of them. as knowing them to be hell-hounds, and haue made discouerte of their diuellish conditions, because you may teach others how to auoide them: and howsoeuer you may be drawne peradventure to publish these abuses to the world (said she) yet I pray conceale my name, the publishing of which may cost me my life.

By this time, the fumes of Ale which had dis tempered her braines, and set her tongue a going were disperſed; so that both her looks and speech she wing that she did not now dissemble but vttered these things vnfeignedly, I gaue her many thanks for her Discouery, counselled her to change her discomfortable Lodging, and

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to dwell in a place more inhabited, (which she promised to doe) and away I went. A thousand cogitations kept me company as I travelled alone by my selfe: soory I was to heare that in those places where Innocence and Simplicity should be borne so much, and such ugly Villanie should bee nourished, yet was I glad that I came to the knowledge of their evils, because the dressing of such wounds in a common wealth, is the curing of them.

Seeing therefore with more pearching eyes into the Country-life, I began to hate it worse then before I loued it, I fell to dispraise it faster then euer I did commend it. For I found it full of care, and full of craft, full of labour and yet full of penurie; I saw the poore husbandman made a slave to the rich sarmour; the sarmour racked by his landlord: I saw that couetousnesse made deere peeres, when she had fullest barnes, and to curse plentie for beeing liberall of her blessings. I had heard of no sinne in the Citie, but I met it in the village; nor any Vice in the Tradsmen, which was not in the Ploughman. All places therefore beeing haunted with euill spirits, I forsooke the fieldes and the Mountaines, and tooke my tourney backe againe to the Citie, whose customes (both good and bad) I desired to be acquainted with. It was my fortune to travell so late, that the Mone had climed vp to the very top of Midnight, before I had entrance into the gates of the Citie, which made mee make the more haste to my lodging: But in my passage, I first heard (in some good distance before me) the sound of a bell, and then of a mans voyce, both whose tunes seemed at that dead houre of the night, very dolefull. On I hastened to know what noyse it should bee, and in the end found it to bee the Belman of London. The sound of his Voice, at the first, put me in mind of the day of Iudgement; Men (me thought) starting out of their sleepes, at the ringing of his Bell, as then they are to rise from their graves at the call of a Trumpet: But when I approached nere vnto him, and beheld a man with a lanthorne and a candle in his hand, a long staffe on his necke, and a dog at his taile, I supposed verily, because the Mone shone somewhat dimly, that the man in the Mone had leapt downe from heauen, and (for haste) had left his bush of thorns behind him: But these imaginattions vanishing, as fast as they were begotten, I began to talke to my Bel-man, and to aske him, why with such a tangling, and balling, and beating of mens doyes, he went

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went about to waken either poore men that were oer-wearied with labour, or sicke men that had most neede of rest? he made answer vnto me, that the Ringing of his Bell, was not (like an Al-larum in a towne of Garrison) of right the inhabitants, but rather it was musick to charme them faster with sleepe: the Beating at their doores assured those within, that no thieues were entred, nor that false seruants had wilfully or negligently suffered the doores to stand open, to haue their masters robt; and that his crying out so loude, was but like the Shill Good morrow of a Cocke, to put men (that had wealth enough) in minde of the time how it slideth away, and to bide those that are full of businesse to bee watchfull for their due houres when they were to rise. He cald himselfe therefore the Centinell of the Citie, the watchman for euery ward, the honest Spy that discovered the pientizes of the night, and that as a lanthorne in the poope of a Ship, was a guide or comfort to seamen in most pitchy darknesse, so was his walking by and downe in the night time, a preuention to the Citie oftentimes of much and many dangerous fires. I liked well that thus hee praised himselfe, because in those prayes lay the commendation of an honourable, ciuill, and politick government. And so farre deat I with him that in the end hee brought me acquainted with his office, as wel as hee knew it himselfe, and discovered vnto me the properties of his walkes, as how farre his bounds reached; what mad hobgoblins hee oftentimes encountred with what mischiefes he now and then preuented, what knaueries hee was now and then an eye witness to, and to what secret villanies (brought to bed in darknesse) hee was compeld to bee (thought not the midwife) pet a gossip, present at the labour and deliuerie. Of all which I hauing a longing desire to get the true pictures, and perswading him that hee was bound by his place, by his conscience, and by the lawes of common humanitie to lay open such plots as were so dangerous to the common-wealth, whereof he was a member, he yielded at the length to discover all that hee knewe, and for that purpose, not onely carried me home to his lodging, where hee gaue mee the notes and names of sundry abuses begotten in the dead of night: but also went by and downe the Citie with mee all the next day, shewing mee the very doores and signes at which they dwelt, and the very faces of those that were the Diuels Factors in those

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low country commodities of bell: I learn'd much by the Bel-mans intelligence, but moze after wards by my owne obseruation and experience; what merchandize I stoze up selfe with by both Voyages, here doe I vnlade, and what profit soeuer ariseth by the traffick of them, shal if you please, be wholly yours. And for that the Lading was of sundry commodities, I will deliuer them forth in their seuerall parcels, as I receyued them.

¶ Of cheating Law.

ALL Vices maske themselves with the blizards of Vertue: they borrow their names, the better and moze currantly to passe without suspition: for murder will be called Manhood, Drunkennes is now held to be Phisicke, Impudence is Audacitie, Riot good fellowship, &c. So are these Villaines (whose faces I meane to discouer) painted ouer with fresh orient colours, because their looks may be moze pleasing and lesse suspected to haue craft vnderneath them. And for that purpose haue their Knaueries gotten the names of Artes or Lawes, as the Act of such a thing or such a law, not that they are institutions set down by law for the good of men, or of a common wealth; but as the Law is grounded vpon reason, and hath Maximes of Justice, vpon which she buildeth all her Policies, whereby she gouernes kingdomes: So these new-found Lawes of the Diuels inuention, are grounded vpon Mischiefe, and are nothing else but certaine Arts and Rules drawne into heades (in an assembly of damned Wretches) for the utter vndoing of Men, and confusion of a Weale publike.

Of all which Lawes, the Highest in place, and the Highest in perdition, is the Cheating Law, or the Art of winning money by falie dyce: Those that practise this stusy, call themselves Cheaters, the dice Cheaters, and the money which they purchase Cheates: borrowing the tearme from our common Lawyers, with whome all such casuals as fall to the Lord, at the holding of his Leetes, as Waifes, Srayes and such like, are said to be, Escheated to the Lords vse, and are called Cheates. This sort of gamesters, were at first a few in number, (the Art being odious) they were poo: (as being hated & driuen from al good mens company. (But now, there are so many profess Cheaters, and so many that
give

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give countenance to their occupation, that they might make an armie sufficient to give the Turke a battell: now are they not hungry thread-bare huanes, but gallants that ruffe in silkes, and are whozzied thzough the streets in Coaches; their purses being full of crownes, and their fingers being held by able to command the proudest Curtizan: yea, to such a rancknes hath custome bzought this Vice, and to such a boldnes, that in the most noble assemblies at the best Ordinaries, where your only Gallants spend afternoones and in your most ciuill meetings of Merchants, your wealthiest Citizens, if they sal to play with dice for any round summes of money, it is now growne to a fashion to haue some one or other to take by the Cheaters weapons, and (without all respect of honesty, friendship or society) to beate all commers.

A Cheater playes his Masters prize at 14. seuerall weapons, and those weapons are these,

The names of false Dice.

A Bale of bard sinck Dewces.

A Bale of flat sincke Dewces.

A Bale of flat sice Aces.

A Bale of bard sice Aces.

A Bale of bard Cater-Treas.

A Bale of Flat Cater-Treas.

A Bale of Fullams.

A Bale of light Graniers.

A Bale of Langrets, contrary to the vantage.

A Bale of Gordes, with as many high men as low men for passage.

A Bale of Demies.

A Bale of Long Dyce for euen and odde.

A Bale of Brittles.

A Bale of Direct contraries.

These are the 14. diuelish hookes, by which the Cheater angles for other mens money; he cares not in what riuer, he makes no conscience with what baite, so he may haue good draughts to maintaine himselfe in riots, and his whoze in rich apparell, that's

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the white he shotes at. Neither doth he let all those arrows lie at one marke, nor in all breathers. But some he shotes in one game, some in another, and as he findes what fooles are in his company, so does he bestow his boltes. To set down all the Legier-demaine of this handy craft, would peradventure instruct some ill minded persons in that villanie, which is published onely to haue others shunne it: I will therefore shew you a few of their iugling trickes, (that are Graduates in the Art) and by the shape of them iudge the rest, for all are alike.

A Langret is a Die, which simple men haue seldome heard of, & happily neuer seen (but to their cost) It is (to the eye of him that is but a Nouice) a good and square die. yet is it cut longer vpon the Cater and Trea, then vpon any other point, and is for that cause called a Langret: these Langrets are also called Bard Cater Treas, because in the running, the longer end will commonly (of his owne way) drave downewards, and turne either Sice, Sinke, Deuce or Ace vponwards on the boord; the principall vse of them is at Nouum. For so long as a paire of Bard Cater Treas, be walking, so long can you cast neither 5. nor 9, vnles it be by great chance, that the roughnes of the Table, or some other stoppe force them to stay, and to runne against their kind; for without Cater Treas, 5, or 9, you know can neuer come.

Here some may imagine, that by this meanes, he that hath the first Dice in his hand, may strip all that play at the Table of their money; but this must be their helpe. An odde Die called a Flat Cater Trea, (and no other number) is to be ready at hand; for granting the Trea and Cater to be alwaies vpon the one Die, then is there no chaunce vpon the other Die, but may serue to make 5, or 9, and so cast forth and lose all.

The Cheater therefore marketh well the Flat, and bendeth a great part of his study to learne when he is abroad, for so long as that is stirring, he will neuer cast at much: the shill which a Cheater is driuen to, in conueying the Flat in and out, is a notable cunning, and in their trade is called Foyking: which is nothing else but a sleight to carry Dice easily in the hand so often as the Foister listeth; so that when either he or his partner casteth the Dice, the Flat comes not abroad till he hath made a Great hand, otherwise the Flat is still sure to be One, vnlesse the Cheater of purpose

pose suffers the silly Novices, with whome he playes, to cast in a hand or two, to give them courage and to live in hope of winning.

The damnable Oathes and Quarrels that wait at the Table of Gamesters, are occasion that many men forbear to venture money in those sports, who otherwise would play; the Cheater therefore (being a cunning observer of all fashions) will seldom swear (if he have gotten a Gull into his Company, whome he is loath to anger for feare he lose him) and as seldom swagger, but will rather put up an open wrong, then by a foolish brawle to breake off the company, and so hinder himselfe and his consort of purchase: But if he swear, you would take him for a Puritane, for his oathes are, Of honesty, of troth, by Saint Martin, &c. And take this note, that when he swears affirmatively, he meanes alwaies the contrary. As for example, if I say unto you, when the the Dice come to your hands, Of honesty cast at all, my meaning is, you shall cast at the Table, or else at very little: or if, when one bringeth up out of all his money, offer to payne a Ring or a Jewell, and I swear by S. Martin, I thinke it is fine gold, then doe I meane that it is pure Copper, and so of the rest: He that is drawn in to venture his money, is (among this cursed brotherhood of Cheaters) termed a Cosin, and is handled so kindly, as if he were a cosin indeed: if he once set in a foot, and that they fall to Hunt him, then all the craft is to make the Coney sweat, that is to say, so wisely to handle him, that hee may have a desire more and more to play and to keepe company; yet so warily to increase this appetite in him, that he smooke not the Cheater, which is, that he smell not what knauerie is bent against him, and so slip the collar like a Hound, and shake off the company forever.

At the taking up of a Cosin, the first Veny that a Cheater gives him, is to learne before he play what store of Bit, he hath in his Bay, that is, what money he hath in his purse, and whether it be in great Cogges or small that is, in gold or silver, and at what game he will soonest stoupe; for that being knowne, his humour is led, and he is cheaked with the meate he loves best. For some that will not play a groat at Nouum, will loose a hundred pound at Hazard, and he that will not loose a shilling at Dice, will play away his patrimony at Cardes: for which cause the Cheater furnisheth himselfe for all voyages, but specially provides for fine Cheates,
and.

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and to atchieue which with moze ease, he acquaintes himselfe with Dice-makers, that worke in corners, (Warlets they are that are factors to the Deuil, and for money will exchange their soules in a baile of Dice.) These Dice-makers arme the Cheater with the foresaide 4. weapons, and then he is a Cheater compleat.

One notable policy is (as a Rule) set downe in this Schoole of cheating, and that is, A Cheater neuer discovereth the secrets of his Art to any, vntlesse it be to such a one who being left by his parents rich in money and possessions, hath to the musick of square rattling bones danced so long, that he hath danced himselfe into the company of beggers, and is brought to such want and miserie, that he would leane no stone vnturned to finde a penny vnder it. Such a wretch is instructed in those Villanies, by which he himselfe hath been wrought to infamy: the poison that once he swallowed doth he now cast by to kill others with it. Neither doth the Cheater bestow this learning vpon his yong Scholler, out of a commiseration of his low estate, but onely to make vse of him, even in the height of his extremity. His Iorny-man therefore doth he make him, and because the Cheater is happily a man so noted in all companies, that few or none will venture money where he playes, the Nouice is taught to play his schollers prize, whilst the other stands by and looks on, yet so, that the Cheater hath the sweetenes of the gaines. The Nouices employments then are amongst his rich Kindred, Countymen or acquaintance to find out Cosins, whome he must by one trick or other get to a Tauerne, or inuite them to a supper, at the end of which, the Cheater layes about him to draw them to play, and secretly lends his Pupil money to maintaine game. Both their wits working how to cheate those that are in the company. We haue been too long at Dice, let vs now fall to Cards.

¶ Of Barnards Law.

Dice and Cards are Twins, Idleness was the father of them, Desire of gaines the mother; Honest Recreation sates the was their Nurse, and ought to haue the bringing of them vp, but howsoeuer, the Deuill makes them now his adopted children: and no wonder, for they are like in conditions, as being both (like him)

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him) full of deceit: if there be coufenage in tripping of a Die, there is the like craft in shuffling and sorting of a paire of cardes: insomuch, that what game soeuer is on foot, he that is marked out to be the loser (by the Synodical assembly and Fathers of the Barnards Law, is sure neuer to depart a winner.

To speake of all the sleights vsed by Card-players in all sortes of games, would but weary you that are to reade, and be but a shankles and vnplesing labour for me to set them down, Omittting therefore the deuites practised, (euen in the fairest and most ciuill companies) at Primero, Saint, Maw, Tromp, and such like games. I will onely lay open the villanies of a base kind of people, that trauell vp and down the whole land, sometimes in the habite of Gentlemen, sometimes of Seruingmen, sometimes of Grassiers, Farmers and plain fellows, maintaining themselves only by the couenage they vse in Card-playing: which kind of play of theirs, they call the Barnards Law.

To act which knowith Comedy of Wily-beguily, s. persons are required, and those are,

- 1 The Taker.
- 2 The Cofin,
- 3 The Verser.
- 4 The Barnard.
- 5 The Rutter.

These are the Players: now shall you heare their parts.

1 The Taker, is he that by some fine invention fetcheth in the man, whome they desire to draw into Gaming.

2 The Cofin is the party that is taken.

3 The Verser, is a fellow more grane in speech and habite, and seemes to be a landed man: his part is to second what the Taker begins, and to giue countenance to the act.

4 The Barnard is the chiefe player, for hee counterfeites many parts in one, and is now a drunken man, anon in another humour, and shifts himselfe into so many shapes, onely to blind the Cofin, and to feed him with more delight, the more easly to beguile him.

5 The Rutter is as arrant a knaue as the rest, his part is discharged when he hath begun a fray with his owne shadow, whilst

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the rest that haue made a yonger Brother of the poore Cousin, keale out of sight. Now to the Country it selfe. The prologue of which, if it goe off well, there is good hope all shal end well. All the cunning thereof is how to begin, and to do that, the Taker studies his part at his fingers ends. The Stage Ion which he playes the Prologue, is either in Fleetstreet, the Strand or in Paules, and most commonly in the afternoone, when Country Clients are at most leasure to walke in those places, or for dispatching of their busines, trauell from Lawyer to Lawyer, through Cancery lane, Holborne, and such like places.

In this beate of running to and fro, if a plaine fellow well and cleanly apparelled, either in home-spun russet or freeze (as the season requires) with a sibe pouch at his girdle, happen to appeare in his rusticall likeness: there is a Cozen saies one, At which word out flies the Taker, and thus giues the onset vpon my olde Penny-father. Sir, God saue you, you are welcome to London, how doe all our good friends in the Country? I hope they be well: the Russetting amazed at these salutations of a stranger replies, Sir, all our friends in the country are in health, but pray pardon mee, I know you not belicue it: No (answers the Taker) are you not a Lancashire man, or of such a Country: if he say yes, then the Fish nibbles, and he giues him more line to play with: if he say no, then the Taker hath about with another weapon, and sweares soberly, In good sooth Sir I know your face, and am sure wee haue been merry together, I pray (if I may beg it without offence) bestow your name vpon me, and your dwelling place. The innocent man suspecting no poison in this gilded cup, tels him presently his name and abiding, by what Gentleman he dwels, &c. which being done, the Taker (for thus interrupting him in his way, and for the wrong in mistaking him for another) offers a quart of wine, if the Cousin be such an Ass to goe into a Tauerne, then he is sure to bee wrickled, but if hee smacke my Taker, and smell Gunne-powder traines, yet will not be blowne vp, they part satrely; and then to the Verser goes the Taker, discovering what he hath done, and delivers the mans name country and dwelling to the Verser, who boldly stepping to him, or crossing the way to meet him fall in the face, takes acquaintance presently of him, salutes him by his name, inquires how such and such Gentlemen doe, that dwell in the same towne

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to wine by him, and albeit the honest Hob-nailer-wearer, can by no meanes be brought to remember this new friend, yet will hee, will he, to the Tauerne he sweares to haue him, and to bestow vpon him the best wine in London.

Diuers other pullies (if these two falle) haue they to draw simple men into their company, as by dropping a shilling in the open way, which being taken vp in the Country mans sight, must bee spent in wine, because he shall haue his halfe part, or by intreating him to step into a Tauerne till the Verser haue wist a word or two into the Country, which he must carry to his friends, offering the Cofin a shilling for his paines. But the conclusion of all is, that if they thinke his bag is well lined with silver, to the Tauerne by one subtle hooke or other, they will pull him, where being set with the Verser and the Taker, and wine called for: In comes the Barnard stumpling into the room, as if were by chance, seeming to be halfe drunke, and crying the company mercy for being so bolde with them; they modestly answere, no hurt is done, and aske him if he will drinke with them. he takes their offer, and sweares to pay for a pinte of Wine, which they by no meanes will suffer. But the Barnard telling them he has money for what hee calls, and vñing phzases fit for a drunken man, out flies some twenty or forty Angels on the boord, which he puts vp presently againe, and sayes, seeing they will not suffer him to pay for a pint, he will play at cardes for it with any one of them at a new game which hee learnt but now, with the losse onely of a pot of Ale. The rest of his consort (making as though what they doe is to bee rid of him) are content to play for a pint and no more. The Taker or the Verser is the man must play with him, the Cardes are fetch, Mumchance or Decoy is the game: the first wager is Wine, the second two pence in money, from two pence they rise to a shilling, from that to a pound, and hauing drawne some good store of gold from the Barnard, the Cofin (allured with the sweetenes of gaine, and hope of winning, seeing the other halfe drunke, as he imagines) is offered to be halfe in whatsoeuer is worne, he stoopes to this lure, but the bush is so well beaten by these subtle fowlers, that in the end, all the birdes are flowne out of the Cozens hand, and he hath not one penny left him in his purse: If then he smell the knauery, and fall to calling for a Constable, swearing the drunken raskall hath colered

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him, (for the Barnard you must know carries away all the money) then enters the Rutter, who picking some idle quarrell, either in the room, or at the street doore, the Coney of the Cheators take their flight in the meane time, and that (with the sharing of the Purchase in another Tauerne) is the Epilogue to their Comedy, but the first Entrance to the poore Countrymans Tragedy.

These Comedians strowte likewise by and dooone the Country, in the habites of Seruingmen, and silly fellows, haunting Brainford, Kingston, Croydon, Romford, and such other places neere London vpon the market dayes onely: & at the end of the Market, when Butchers, Grassers and others whom they thinke to be stored with money, are on their way home, then will one of this crew overtake them in riding, and light at some towne of purpose to mend his girt, to remoue a shoe of his horse, or vpon any other excuse, intreating the company (with whom he is newly acquainted) to stay and drinke a pot with him in the meane time. And in these country voyages, doe they saile by other points of the Compasse, the Windes are not so boisterous, nor the Seas so rough as the former, for here is there neither one that playes the drunkard, nor any that swaggers, but these diuellish Masquers, passe vnder these names at such meetings: viz.

1. The party that fetcheth in the Gull, (whose feathers they meane to plucke) is not called the Taker, but the Setter.
2. He that seconds him, keepe his first Tytle, and is called the Verfer.
3. He that loseth his money, not a Cozen but a Cony.
4. He that comes in, and befoze counterfeited the drunken Barnard, is now sober and called the Barnacle.

Sometimes likewise this Card-cheating goes not vnder the name of Barnards law, but is called Batt-fowling, and then the Setter is the Beater, the fowle that is caught in the Net, the Bird: the Tauerne to which they repaire to worke the Feate, is the Bush: the wine the Strap: and the Cards the Lime-twigs.

Thus haue I discovered a strange Arte, by which Conyes are caught after a new manner of hunting, and Cozens found out, that were neuer of the kindred befoze. Thus the honest Farmer simply going about his businesse, is stripped of that money, which should further his Law-suites, and so perhaps is overthrowne: Thus the Seruing-man being sent with his Lordes treasure, is cheated, and turned

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turned out of Service: : Thus the Prentice having his Masters wealth in his hand, is rob'd (by some Thieves) and in the end obliged to run away, or to die in prison. Thus the Gentleman, coming new to his Land, is made a Begger. Thus the Merchant is undone. Thus all men are abused: Thus the Common-wealth is dishonored, by feeding such Wipers in her wombe, that cannot live, but by gnawing out of her Bowels.

¶ Vincents Law.

The Dycing Cheator, and the cozening Card-Player, walke in the habits of Gentlemen, and carie the faces of honest men: So likewise doe those that are Students in the Vincents Law: whose Inn is a Bowling-Alley, whose books are Bowles, and whose Law-cases are Lurches and Rubbers. The pastime of Bowles is now growne to a common Exercise, or rather a Trade, of which some of all Companies are free, the Sport is not so common, as the Cozenage used in it, which, to have it live with credit and in a good name, it's called the Vincents Law.

In this Law, they which play bootie are the Banckers.

He that Bettech, is the Gripe,

He that is Cozened, is the Vincent.

The Gaines gotten, is called Termage.

The Banckers, are commonly men apparelled like honest and substantiall Citizens, who come into the Bowling Allies for a Rubbers or so, as though it were rather for Sports, then for any gaines, protesting, that they care not whether they winne or lose: which carelesnesse of theirs, is but a shadowe to their pretended Inauerie: whilst they are crying Rub rub, Rub and a great one, In come the Spectators dropping one by one; and stand leaning over a Rasse to behold them; of which, oftentimes some simple men, that neuer sawe a common Bowling-Ally before, may perhaps be of the number, and is brought in of purpose, by one of their owne Brotherhood, to bee rid of his money, if such a young Bird happen among them; and doe once but chirp, that's to say, either take or offer any Lay, they all harken to his Note, expect-

ally, if he sing shrilly, that's to say, be deepe : if there be good store of Lookers on, then are there certaine old soakers, whose office is to doe nothing but listen for Bets, either even or odd, and these are called Gripes ; which Gripes will refuse no Lay, if the ods may grow to their advantage, for the Gripes & the Bankers are sworn brothers to the diuell, (their father in law) and the Bowls have such vertue in them, that their Biasses will directly run, as the Gripes have placed their Bets. The Bankers (albeit they so play, as if they minded nothing but their owne Game) yet have still an eare how the Lays are made, and according to that leuell doe they throw their Bowles, so that be sure, the Bowlers play booty : For suppose seaven bee Up for the Game, and that the one side hath thre, the other none ; then the Vincent (who is the No- uice, that standeth by, and is not acquainted with the Tal- lentes of these Gripes, nor feesles not when they draine blood of him, no nor doth not so much as carrie an euill thought of the bowlers that they should play booty, looking so grauely and so like to honest men) hee, poore colt, seeing thre to none, begins to grow lusty, and to offer ods on that side which is fairest for the game ; what ods sayes the Gripe ? thre to one cries the Vincent : no sayes the Gripe it is moze, and with that the Bankers are come to foure for none : then the Vincent offers to lay foure to one : I take fire to one sayes the Gripe ; I lay it cries the Vincent, and so they make a bet of fire crownes, shillings or pence, as the Vincent is of ability to lay : and thus will sundry take their ods of him. On then, goe the Bankers with the game and winne another cast which is five for none, at this footes fortune of his, the Vincent grins for ioy, scratches his elbow, and is so proud, that no ground about the Alley can hold him, thinking verily both by the ods and goodnesse of the play, it is impossible for his side to loose, and there- fore (being now foole-hardy) hee takes and layes bets freely : all eyes then greedily marking the event of this storme, at the length on a suddaine, the Sunne begins to shine on the other side that were none, and they winne perhaps so long till they come to three, or five, and still as their lucke alters, diuertitie of bet they laide, till at last they are five for five, and then the Gripe comes vpon the Vincent, and offers him ods, which if the Vincent fasten vpon, hee loseth all, for vpon what side soeuer the Gripe layes, that

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that side ever winnes, how great soever the ods bee at first in the contrary part, so that the cozenage growes in playing booty. This lowre banquet to the Vincent is seasoned with sweet meats to the Bankers and the Gripes, who at night meete in some Taverne, and share the money gotten by this base meanes, which money they call Termage.

Now to shadow the villany the more, the Banker that wins and is afoze hand with the game, will lay frankly that hee shall winne, and will bet hard, and lay great ods, but with whome: either with them who play with him that are as crafty knaves as himselfe, or else with the Gripe, and this makes the Vincent to stoope to the blow the sooner. Besides, if any honest men that hold themselves skilfull in bowling, offer to play any set match against these common bowlers, if these Bankers feare to have the worst, and suspect the others play to bee better then theirs, then have they a trick (in watring of the Ally,) to give such a moisture to the banke, that hee who offers to strike a bowle with a shoe, shall never hit it whilst hee lives, because the moisture of the banke hinders the proportion of his Ayming. Many other practises there are in bowling, tending to cozenage, but the greatest & grossest is Booty, in which the deceit is so open and palpable, that I have seene men stone-blind offer to lay bets frankly, although they could see a bowle no more then a post, onely by hearing who playd, and how the olde Gripes had made their lapses.

Thus, sports that were invented for honest recreation, are by the wicked abusing of them, turned to mens confusion: And not onely in these games before rehearsed, but also in those that are both more laudable, and more lawfull. For in the Tennis-court cheating hath a hand, yea and in shooting, which is the noblest exercise of our English Nation, arrows doe now and then flie with false feathers. Since then that all kindes of Gaming serves but as gulphes to devour the substances of men, and to swallow them up in beggerie, my counsell is utterly either to refrain such pastimes, or if men are of such spirits that they must needs venter their money, then to bee very provident how they play, and to be choise of their company. Now let us turne over the volumes of other Lawes enacted in the Parliament of these Devils.

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¶ The Black Art.

Having waied thus farre in these puddles of dauid simplicitie, it shall not bee amisse to goe on, and search euen to the bottome and farthest shoare of them: to effect which the soener, wee must now deale in the Black Art. It is not that Black Art, by which men coniure by spirits, and raise Devils in Circles, to tell where money is hid, or whither goods that are stolne are conuaided; But this Black Art, is to fetch away money where it lies, and to raise by a fiend in a rich Mercers or Goldsmithes shop at midnight without the gibbity of a starting Coniurer. This Black Art worke in darknes as well as the other: it deales with the Deuill as the other doth, and is as vnlawfull as the other is: If you will needes (in a word) know the mysticall meaning of this black Art, it is called in English Pic king of Locks, and this Engine of mischiefe turnes vpon these five wheeles. viz.

The Picklocke is called a Charme.

He that watcheth if any body come is the Stand.

The tooles that doe the busines are called Wresters.

Picking of the lockes is called Farling.

The gaines gotten is Pelfery.

Now albeit that two persons onely are imploied in this undermining of a doore, viz the Charme and the Stand, yet the burglarie is committed by other handes, which are in a readinesse to receiue the goods (when the house is entred) and to conuey them in parcels away. The Charme (who is the master of this black Art, goes like a coniurer, with a number of keyes and wozels like so many Pentacles) about him, which he calls picklocks, and for euery sundry fashion they haue a sundry tearme, but being ignorant of their wozds of Art, I omit them; onely assuring you thus much, that the Charme hath such cunning and such dexteritie in opening a lock (and that without any great noyse) that no ward whatsoever be it neuer so doubled) but flies back at his ingling with it. Some haue their instruments from Italy made of Steele, some are made here in England by smiths that are partners and partakers in their villanous occupations. But howsoeuer, the trade of Lockpicking may well be called the Black-art, for none study it, but those that for other mens goods haue sold their very soules to the Deuill.

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The Curbing Law.

The Blacke Art and the Curbing Law, are grounded both upon the selfe same positions: for the Blacke Art teaches how to break open a lock; the Curbing Law how to hooke goods out of a window; they both are workers in Iron, both are begotten in Idleness, both live by villanie, and both die with infamie. A Smith is the maker and setter up of these two trades, and the hang-man is the utter undoer of them. This Curbing Law spreades it selfe into foure maine branches:

He that hooke is called the Curber.

He that playes the spy, is the Warpe.

The Hooke is the Curbe.

The goods are called Snappings.

The Gin to open the window is a Tricker.

The office of the Curber is for the most part belimes in the mornings (at the discharging of a watch) to be up more early than a noyle of strugging fiddlers; and the husbandry which he followes is the day time to watch what shops or windowes stand fittest for his trade, which if he finde easily to be opened, then the Cony is in the pursute without much sereting: But if he must take paines for his living, out comes his Trickers, and then (as if he were a brother of the Blacke Art) doth he with those Iron engines, cut a barre of Iron in sunder, in such sort, that scarce the standers by shal heare him. The window being thus open, and that hee hath good hope to meete with fat Snappings (or rich purchase) the warpe bustles to play his part, and watches with cats eyes in the darke, looking (like one a squint, or as if hee stood to catch bares) two waies, one to spee who comes, the other to note what comes out at the window: to carry which away, hee is furnished with a long cloake. But first must the Curber play his pyze, and that is with an iron about nine foot in length, at whose end (being crooked) are three Tynes turned contrary, so that they catch every way, if any snappings be within their reach. This hooke (or Curb) is made with toynts like an Angling rod, and in the day time is conueled into the forme of a truncheon, and woyme like a walking staffe till night, when it is put to doe other service. Whatsoever the

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the Curber with his angle fishes for and takes, the Warp beares it away, and he deliueers it either to a Broker or some Batwde (for they all are of one seather,) of which Receiuers they haue as present money for it, as if they traded with Marchants. Then is there (belonging to this faculty) a Diuer, and he is lost in the nature of a Curber, for as the one practises his villany with a hooke, so the Diuer workes his Jugling seates by the helpe of a Boy, (called a Figger) whome he thrusts in at a Calemment, being so well studied that he hath the principles of the Blacke-Art, and can picke a locke if it be not too much crossewarded: this Figger deliueers to the Diuer what snappings he findes in the shop or Chamber.

¶ The Prigging Law.

Being weary with going thus farre on foote, let vs now (si-
thens we haue ouertaken a horseman) get vp and ride along
with him. Yet now I looke vpon him well, it is more safety and
better policie to let him ride by himselfe, for he rides circuit with the
Duell, and Dericke must be his host, and Tiburne the Inn at
which he will light. This ranch-ride is of the family of Knights-
errant, or of those wandring Rogues that march in the first files of
my booke his name is a Prigger, deriving his title from his pra-
ctise, which is called the Prigging Law, whose groundes are the
cleanly and cunning stealing of horses.

This Prigging Art runnes into six Riuers, all of them
falling into one streame, and all of them flowing from one
head.

The that steales the horse is called the Prigger.

The horse is called a Prancer.

The seller away of the stolne horse is a Martar.

The Tolling house is called Alhallowes.

The tiller is the Rifler.

The sureties at the toll-booke are called Querries.

A Prigger on foot is called a Trayler.

The Prigger if he be a lance-man (that is to say, one that is al-
ready horsed) then rides he in state, attended by followers, who are
either like his seruantes in liveryes, or in the habite of Gentle-
men, or most commonly in the shapes of Drouers: in this equi-
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page doe they walke vp and down meadowes and pastures or other inclosed groundes, as if their purpose were to buy cattell, whereas their eyes are only busied in noting hozes that are worth the stealing, and whether their heeles are fettered with hozse-locks or no. The first circle being drawne in the day time, the next night following, our Priggers fall to conuincing. and by the spells of the Blacke Art picke open the trammels or lockes, and then like Bats or Owles away they flie ouer hedge and ditch out of those quarters. The owners in the morning may smell out their footsteps, and see which way they are run post, but vnlesse the Diuell himselfe either went with a candle and lanthorne befoze them, the Priggers would neuer be found, or else carried them on his backe, and bid them to hold fast by his hoznes, whilst he galloped, it were not possible to ouertake them. For this policy they vse, if the Prigger steale a hozse in Yorkshire, he sels him in Surrey, Kent or Suffex: and their Martars (so called of hunting Marts or Faires) who receiue them at the Priggers hands, chop them away in some blind faires or other after they haue kept them a moneth or two, till the breath of the Hue and Crie be blowne ouer.

If the hozse be of any value, and much inquired after, or carry such bzands or eare-markes about him, that they cannot put him off without danger, then doe these Priggers bzande him with a crosse-bzand on the sozmer, or take away his eare marke, and so keepe him at hard meate till hee be perfectly recovered, or else will they sell him in Cornewall or Wales, if he be fetched out of Cumberland, Lincolnshire, Norfolke or Suffolke. But if the hozse be openly coloured and without Bzandes, then haue they shifts to spot them so strangely, that a man shall hardly know his own hozse if he meete him; as to marke a blacke hozse with saddle spots, or to star him in the forehead, and change his tayle: the secrets of which are not fit in print to be discovered, lest laying open the abuse, I should teach some how to practise it.

This is the life of the Prigger, who travels vp and downe the whole kingdome vpon his gelding of 20. and 40. pound price, and is taken for a man of good worth, by his outward shew, (being amongst his owne fraternity of hozse stealers) called a Prigging Iance-man. But he that hozrowes a nag out of another mans pasture, and cares not so he may get money for him, how he puts him

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a way, onely to supply his wants, is called a Trayler: these Traylers trot vpon the horse and are footmen, meane in apparel, though not meane in their theeuing trade: you shall haue them attired like plaine country crans, walking (like our theebare Gallants in Donks) in bootes without spurs, and sometimes without bootes, long staves on their necks, and black buckram bags at their backs, as if they were Lawyers Clients, and carried Letters by and dowayne, but those buckram bags are the horses wardrope. In those bags doe these sneaking Traylers put saddle, bzidle, spurs, stirrops, and stirrop leathers, all this hackney household stuffe, being made so quaintly, that the deepe fop of a horse is able to hide it: for the saddle is fashioned without any tree (yet hath it cantle and bolsters) but artificially quilted together with cloth and bumbast, and with such foldes that it may easily be wrapt vpin a little cloone: the stirrops goe with bires and gimes, that one may put them into a paire of gloves, so likewise do the spurs, and then a little white leather head stall and raines, with a small scottish brake or snaffle, all of them so neatly framed, that a small bagge will containe them. And looke how the Lance-man rides post when he sits vpon his pyp: so when the Trayler is in the saddle, alway hee gallops, as if euery Jade of seven Nobles price were a winged Pegasus, selling him as farre off from the place where he stole him, as possibly he can.

Now because those Priggers though they breake the Law in one point, yet they make it whole in another, and very orderly come to the toll-booke, bringing two (of their owne Religion) civilly attired (sitting the place) who not onely affirme, but offer to depose, that they know the horse to be his owne that sels it, yet are these castles no better then old knights of the Post, that will perjure themselves for pots of Ale, and neuer saw perhaps either the Prigger or the Prancer before: these wicked Elders, hauing for villanies being banished out of Westminster Hall, or for their perjuries stood and lost their eares on the Pillorie, retire themselves into the Country, and professe this kind of life, being by the horse-stealers called (though they are farre vnworthy of so good a name) Querries: leaving whome with the horsemen of their Lords and masters) either to an amendment of manners, or to the mercy of the Hangman, who must teach them to ride this wooden curtalle

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let be, because we are now lifting them out of the Saddle, turne over a new lease, and reade a lecture in the Lifting Lawe.

The Lifting Law.

The Lifting Lawe, is not the Lawe of Porters, who live by Lifting, and cry to one another, Lend mee your hand, when honestly they are to carrie a burthen for a penny, and safely to deliver it to the Owner backe againe: but this Law teacheth a kinde of lifting of goods cleane away. In such Liftings are three sorts of Leanners used to get up the baggage, viz,

He that first stealeth the parcell, is called The Lift.

He that receiveth it, is the Marker.

He that stands without and carrieth it away, is the Sencar.

The goods thus purchased, is called Garbage: which Garbage is sometime Plate, or Jewels, sometimes pecies of Velvet, sometimes Cloakes or Lawyers Colours, sometimes one thing, sometimes another.

The Practitioners of this Lifting law, take severall degrees, for some of them (they are the Punies) are but base Rogues, that live by lifting quart pots, platters, and such trash out of tippling houses, under colour of spending two or three pots of Ale. These are the Rasallitie of this Heard. But the Gentilman Lifter walkes with his Marker at his heeles, as if hee were a Country Gentleman of 500. a yere, and coming into a Jewellers or Gold-Smiths Shop, presently calls by his cloake (to colour his intents) the Marker standing bare headed not farre from him, his Worship then calls for a bolt of Battin, Velvet, Cloth of gold or silver, or any other of the richest commodities, and not liking the pile, colour or backe, his eye must have the choice of more; the Marker in the meane time whilst the Jeweller is busie and turnes his backe, hath the Garbage thrust towards him by the Lifter, and conveies it under his cloake: the Sencar who walkes in the street, passing then in great haste by the way, is called back by the Marker, as if he were such a Gentleman, Knight, or Noble mans servant; but the Sencar swears he cannot stay, the Marker tels him, hee must needs have one word with him, and so stepping along with him some part of the way, secretly conveies the Garbage to the Sencar.

Other Liftes there are, that hunt Noble mens houses, at

Marriages, or solemn Rouchings in Christmas, and the Halls of Companies when they make feasts, at which times, they lift away Goblets, or other peeces of Plate, Papery or any thing worth the ventring for.

Others plie Counsellours chambers that are well Cliented, and sit downe in the outer rooms like Country men, having blacke bores by their sides, and papers in their hands: but their attendance is not for counsell, nor to pay any fees, but to Lift away Colours or Cloakes by the rules of their owne lye. The like patre of Adventures doe they draw in Shops, betwixt Scriveners and themselves.

Another more cunning then all these Listings, is, when in an evening, a Barrowler walks by and doth the Streets, and counterfeits that he hath let fall a Ring, a Jewell, or a peece of gold, requesting some Wrentice (when there is but one in the Shop) to lend him his candle a while, to find his losses, who simply doth so, but the Lifter posing a good while, and not meeting with his ring, lets the candle in the end slip out of his fingers, and whilst the Wrentice steps in to light it againe, the Sentar or he himselfe steals what garbage they can finger, and are gone in the meane time.

You have another kinde of Lifter, or more properly, a cunning night shifter, and it is thus: You shall have a fellow, that in an evening, or night time, or sometime at none dayes, as hee likes the company, and sorts his oportunitie, that will wilfully drop sometime a spoone, other while a ring, or else some peece of coined money, as the likenesse of gold, and silver, and so spurning it afoze them in the view of others, to the end they should cry Halfe part, which he taking hold of, saith, Pay by my troth, what will you giue me, and take it all, and so some greedy soles offer thus much, thinking it gold, which the Lifter takes, as knowing it counterfeit, and so are they cunning caught.

Then is there a kind of Lift, who like a Jugler doth all his seates of himselfe, not caring for the helpe of others, he goes attired like a Servingman, booted and spurd and dirty as if hee had new ridden, his hautes are the best colours in the country upon market daies, but most commonly Faures: the birdes he watches for are Knights, Esquires, or Gentlemen, that light at the greatest Inns, whither most resort is, who shall no sponer come from horse, but this

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this Lister is ready to holde his harrow, or to walke his horse, as officiously as if he wore his cloth: so that, to the Guest he seemes to be one belonging to the house, and to the servants of the house he appeares to be a follower of the Gentleman newly alighted. But the Guest being departed from his Inn, to the towne or into the citie, back comes this counterfeit Blew coate, running in all haste for his Masters cloak-bag or portmantua, & calsto the ostler or chamberlaine by his name to deliuer it, because some things must be taken out for his Knight or the Gentleman, his Master, that are in it. The key is put (betwixt) into the Masters tallants, and away flies he presently to his nest, to feede and sat his ravenous gorge with the garbage which he hath gotten.

But what nests thinke you they fly to? Marry to the house either of some notorious trebble-childe bande (in whose beds commonly these serpents lie lurking) who keepe a tipping house, and brings up pong Trugs (under the colour of filling Kannes) that are harlots to the Lister; or else to the shops of certain Brokers who traffick onely in this kind of Merchandise, and by bills of sale (made in the name of Robin-Goodfellow and his crue) get the goods of honest Citizens into their hands, either detaining them so long in their chests till they be no more sought after, or else so altering them that the Owners shall hardly know them. Thus the Lister and his mates prepare the limelings and catch the bird, but the Bawde and Broker, eate the flesh and giue the other onely the feathers.

¶ The High Law.

At this while haue I read vnto you the beggerly Law, and base common Lawes of villany, by which the Out-lawes of a Kingdome, and out-casts of a wellgoverned Common wealth, maintaine their damnable courses. How must you tast up your eyes and looke aloft, if you haue a desire to behold the picture of the High Lawe: which taketh that name from the higher plots that are acted by it: the Schollers that learne it are called High Lawyers, yet they neuer walke to Westminster to pleade, though oftentimes they are called to the Barre, but then it is to haue them holde vp their hands, that the Hangman may tell them their fortune.

fortune. All the former Lawes are attained by wit, but the High Law, stands both upon Wit and Manhood. For the High Law is nothing else but taking a purse by the High-way side, so that to be a good practitioner in this Law, a man needs no more but a bold sterne look, a good heart, and a good sword; the cases that hee has to plead upon, is onely Stand and Deliver. All travellers are so beaten to the trials of this Law, that if they have but rode over Shooters Hill, or Salisbury Plaine, they are as perfect in the principles of it, as if they had bene seven yeares in the company of High Lawyers. The Counsell a High Lawyer gives, is common, but his fees are unreasonable, for he strips his Clients of all. The motions which he makes are both in Tearme and out of Tearme; I shall not neede therefore to open any of his Cases. But onely will tell you thus much, that this highlaw is comprehended in five Volumes, viz.

The theefe that commits the Robbery, and is chiefe Clearke to Saint Nicholas, is called the High Lawyer.

He that setteth the watch is a Scripper.

He that stands Centinell and does watch, is an Oke.

He that is robb, is the Martin.

When he yeeldeth it is called Stopping.

All the slyers in England have seene these High-law matters tried, and therefore if any would know them or the professors of them to a haire, let him but step into the Old Baily at any Sessions, and he shall heare more.

¶ The Sacking Law.

The companion of a Theefe is commonly a Whore; it is not amisse therefore, to prime on them together: for what the theefe gets the strumpet spends. The trade of these Tale-bearers goes under the name of the Sacking Law; and rightly may it be called sacking, for as in the sacking of a Citty, all the villanies in the world are set abroad, so when a Parlot comes to the sacking of a mans wealth and reputation (for hee besiegeth both together) hee leaves no stratagem unpractised to bring him to confusion. Westminster and Holborne have chambers full of these students of the Sacking Law. In Clerken well, they have

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wont and are still well cliented: White friers is famous for their meeting: The Spittle flourisheth with the yong frie that are put to it to learne it. Sacks come to these Mills every houre, but the Sacking Law empties them faster then a Miller grinds his bushels of coine. He that hath a lust to practise this law, must be furnished with these five bookes, viz.

The Baud, who if she be a woman is called a Pandarelle.

The apple-squire: who is to fetch in wine.

The Whore, who is called the Commodity.

The Whore-house, which is called a Trugging place.

These five Authors are so well knowne, and have bene so turned over lease by lease, that every man (almost) that lives in sight of the smoake of the Citty, hath them at his fingers ends, or if hee cannot, it is an easie matter to finde them by a Table. I will only referre you to the suburbs. But there is a second part of this Sacking Law, and that instructs Punks to attire themselves neatly in summer eveninges, and about ten or eleven of the clock at night to walke by and downe the most peopled streetes of the Citty, very soberly and gingerly, till the wine (by one Gull or other) be offered, which with a little intreaty she takes; but being in the midst of their boules, or perhaps the silly conny being trained home to a lodging, where he falls to Nibbling; in comes a Russian with a drawne rapier, calls the Pünke (as she is) damned whore, asks what Rogue that is, and what he does with his wife. The conclusion of all this counterfeited swaggering being a plot betwixt this panderly ruffian and the whore to geld the silly foole of all his money he hath in his purse, and sometimes to make him (rather than his credit should be called in question) to seale a bill or bond for other sums of money at such and such dayes, and so send him packing. When hee hath paid so deare for a bad dish of meate which hee never tasted: the bawle Apple-squire and his yong Mistres, laughing to see what a wood-rocket they pull, and sharing the leathers betwene them. But when such comedies (of the Sacking Law) as these are plaide, then the Actors have other names then are set downe before, and these they be:

The whore is then called the Traffique.

The man that is brought in is the Simpler.

The Russian that takes him napping is the Crosbiter.

The

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The Figging Law.

The Parliament of these Bel-bounds, it seemes, will soon break vp, for they stand now onely upon the last law, which they call Figging law: in making of which law, two persons haue the chiefe voices, that is to say, the Cut-purse and the Pick-pocket, and all the branches of this law reach to none, but them, and such as are made free citizens of their incorporation. This Figging law (like the body of some monstrous and terrible beast) stands upon tenne feete, or rather lifts vp proudly ten Dragon-like heads, the names of which heads are these, viz.

He that cuts the Purse, is called the Nip.

He that is halfe with him, is the Snap, or the Cloyer.

The knife is called a Cuttle-bung.

He that pickes the Pocket, is called a Foist.

He that faceth the man, is the Stale.

The taking of the purse, is called Drawing.

The spying of this villanie, is called Smoking or Boyling.

The Purse is the Bung.

The money, the Shels.

The Act doing, is called Striking.

This Figging Law, hath more quirkies and subtilties in it, then any of the formers: it is as dangerous to meddle with, as the High Law, in pleading of whole cases, men are at daggers drawing: the schollers of this Art, are cunning Sophisters, and had need to haue more eyes then two in one head, because the Arguments they hold, and their bold villanies which they practise, are argued and iustified to his teeth, with whom they contend. The Foist and the Nip (that is to say, the Pocket-diuer and the Cut-purse) are pew-fellowes together and of one religion, but differ in some points. A Purse well lyned, is the wet Cele they both bob for, but they strine to catch it by the taile, after severall fashions. For the Nip workes with his knife, the Foist with his hand: the Nip cuts the Purse, the Foist drawes the Pocket, both their occupations are taught them by the Diuell, yet they both bragge of the excellencie of them, and are readie sometimes to stabbe one another, about defending which is best, for the Foist countes himselfe the better man,
and

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and therefore is called (by the livery of his company) a Gentleman Foist, and so much scornes the title of a Cut-purse, that he weares not a knife about him to cut his owne meat, least hee be held in suspicion to be a Nip, which he esteemes the basest office in the whole Armie of Cheaters.

These Schollers of the Figging lawe, are infinite in number, their Colledge is great, their orders many, and their degrees (which are given to them by the Seniors of the house) very ancient, but very abominable.

The language which they speake, is none of those which came in at the confusion of Tongues, for neither Insidell nor Christian (that is honest) understandes it, but the Dialect is such and so crabbed, that seven yeeres studie is little enough to reach to the bottome of it, and to make it run off glib from the tongue: by meanes of this Gibrish, they know their owne nation when they meete, albeit they neuer saw one another before; and so conformable are they to the ordinances of the Brotherhood, that whatsoever the wicked Elders amongst them shall prescribe, *Adum est*, tis a lawe, and they will not breake it: yea, not the proudest of them dare bee so bold, as to exercise his Art in any other place, but in those that are appointed to him, nor one presume to set his foote into anothers walke, but by licence of the Signiory.

For that purpose therefore, (as if a whole Kingdome were theirs) they allot such Countreies to this Band of Foistes, such Townes to those; and such a Citie to so many Nips: whereupon some of these Boot-halers, are called Termers, and they plie Westminster Hall, Michellmasse Terme is their harness, and they sweate in it, harder then Reapers or Hay-makers doe at their workes in the beate of Summer: no Counsellour, Attourney, Pettifogger, nor Solicitor, is yparelter then they: nor at the Hall sooner then they: when Clyents begin to come crowding in, Water-men plie not their Faces more nimbly then the Nips, and Foistes bestirre themselves to picke vp their shelles: the Hall and the olde Palace are their Hues; and they worke in them like Bees: the Exchequer-chamber, Star-chamber, Kings-Bench and Common-pleas, and Chauncerie, are the beddes of flowers, to which they flie humming to and fro, continually to sucke the honey of gold and siluer. If a poore Client doe but stand by his

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A lawyer, whilst he is pleading, and draws out his purse to pay fees for counsell, or to the Court for dispatch of his businesse: these Furies are sure to be at his elbow, watching (with Hawkes eyes) on which side he puts up his purse, to that side they flye, and if their talents can but touch it, it is their owne. Others of them haue all the flesh and fish markets allowed them for their walkes, as Cheap-side, East-cheape, the Shambles, both Fishstreets, the Stockes, and the Borough in Southwarke; in which places these faithfull Stewardestes of Lucifers household, cheapen all commodities, onely to note, what money, wines or seruants that come to buy haue in their purses, and where they put it up, which being well obserued, the Stall plies his market, and followes him or her (whose silver is condemned) till they come to a presse of people, then does the Stall keepe a thrusting and a iustling, whilst in the meane time, the Foist is either in their pocket, or the Nip hath the purse fast by the strings.

Others haunt Play-houses onely and the Bearegarden: some haue their precinct lying in the walkes of Poules, their houres of meeting there being betwene 10 and 11. the strokes they strike being sometimes in the middle Ile if it be in Terme time, when the walkes are full, but most commonly at the doores of the church, which they will choake and stricke for passage, whilst another does the seate. At running at Tilt, the Lord Mayors day, any great shooting, any fray, any solemne arraignment or execution is better to these Hell-hounds, than a quarter day is to a Landlord, or than 5. sessions are to the Hangman. Pea, so fearelesse are these Diuels to be throwne headlong, and quicke into the pit of damnation, that even in Gods owne house and the sacred Temple doe they desperately commit their villanies, standing most deuoutely with eyes eleuated up to heauen befoze the 16. seather, where the presse of people is thickest, whilst their hands are nibbling in honest mens pockets for their purses, who are carelesse of such woorthie matters there, as not mistrusting that any so bad minded dare enter into so holy a place. These Nips and Foists goe oftentimes cleane away with the shels which they get, but oftentimes are they dogged by certaine followers (called Cloyers) who hang upon them like Burres, and are more troublesome than waspes: for no sooner is a Bung drawne but the Cloyer steps in for his Tenth which

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which he calls Snappage, if the Nip deny Snappage, the Cloyer seith with Boyles him, that is, bewrayes him, or seaseth on his cloake.

You must vnderstand likewise, that both of Nips and Foists there are two sorts, for there be City Nips and Country Nips, whose office is to haunt nothing but Faires: these Countrey Nips neuer come into London to doe any peece of seruice, but at Bartholmewtide onely. Betwene these two sects is mortall enmity; for if the City Foist spie one of the countrey Foists in London, hee forthwith labours and layes wait to smoake or Boyle him, the like does the countrey Nip or Foist by him of the City. There are also women Foists and Nips, as well as men, but farre more dangerous then the men: All the troupes of both sexes being subiect to the discipline of the Grand Nips and Foists, and from whence, the better to receiue directions, both what to doe, and what quarters to keepe. (for they shift their walkes according to the pleasure of the chiefe Rangers) they haue a certaine house, sometimes at one end of the towne, sometimes at another, which is their Hall; at this Hall the whole company doe meet very orderly, by which means whensoever any notable or workmanlike stroke is stricken, though it were as farre as the North-borders, yet can the rest of the Fig-boyes here resident in London, tell by whome this worthy Act was plaide.

At this soleinn meeting in their Hall, they choose Wardens and a Steward; the Wardens office is to establish wholesome laws, to keepe life in their rotten common wealth, and to assigne out to euery man his stations. The Treasurers office is very truely, (though he be an arrant theefe) to render an account of such monyes as are put into his hands vpon trust, for of euery purse (that is cleaneely conueyed, and hath good store of shelles in it) a rateable proportion is deliuered (in Banck as it were) to the Treasurer, to the intent, that when any of them is taken and cast into prison, a Flag of truce may presently be hung out, and composition offered to the wronged party, thereby to saue a brother of the society from riding Westward. This had went to bee an order amongst them: But now the Under-keepers of Newgate, (if complaint bee made to them for the losse of any purse) haue a trick to get a warrant, into which warrant they put the names of nine or ten of the most

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notorious Foistes and Nips that are free of their Gaole (which they call Whittington Colledge,) and those Nips or Foists doe the Taylors nip, till the money (perhaps double) be restored, albeit not one of them that are specified in the warrant were guilty of the fact: This trick doth greatly impoverish the Tradesmen of this mystery, and may in time utterly overthrow the students of the Figging Law.

The five Lumpes at Leape Frog.

The whole volume of these detestable Lawes is now read ouer to catch a heate therefore after so long sitting, let vs exercise our selues a while at a new Play, called The five Lumpes at Leape-frog. The property of the game at Leap-frog, is (as euery pensive and Carter knowes) for one man to scope, and to let another come ouer him; so in these Lumpes the running Cheaters sweate onely to make a man scope so low, that they may breake his back, and then they ride ouer his misery with laughter.

The first Lumps is called Horse-courling, and that is done thus: A fellow in good clothes and with an honest face to the eye, hires of a carrier a Bag to ride along wth him to Cambridge, Oxford, Norwich, or any great Towne of trade: but let the journey be neuer so long, this Rider will end it in a forenoone at most, for whilst the Carrier is busie about his teame on the way, & looking to his charge, my horse courser steps aside into some by-lane, and lights at some paltry to wne neare the City where he will lie, till he haue in Capons and wine, eaten by the Carriers beast alive, and then departs on foote, sending the poore man word where his prancer stands at Rathe and Danger, who if he will haue him, must disburse forty shillings or three pound for his Fades diet. The Hackney men of Rochester haue bene oftentimes come ouer with this Lumps at Leape-frog, and know the game well, for a man cannot name it, but they are ready to giue it a curse.

The second Lumps is called carrying of stones, and that is performed in this manner: A crew of sharking companions (of which there be sundry consortes, lurking about the suburbs of this City) being driven out of meanes by leading base and idle lines, or else by their riotous expences amongst Whores, practise to liue vpon

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on the free simple of their wits, and having amongst them all, some little money left (which they call their Shooing-horne) they seeke out some blind victualing house, or Cookes house without the bars, whose Host (if it be possible) is either an Asse easie to be ridden, or else a common Drunkard. In this Colts house will they sit carowling halfe cannes day and night, and pay royally at first for what they call, that Shooing-horne of theirs drawing the Host and Hostesse on to believe they shall bee made for ever by those Guests, who to gull the poore Goose-cap the better, draw at their acquaintance they can to the house, neuer either drinking or feeding but mine Host must sit at the boordes end like a Magnifico in pompe, with his ale-dropt greasie doublet shining by Candle-light, as if it were an olde rusty Armoz scurrully scowred. But when these Horse-leeches haue suckt their guts full, or rather the pittifully complaining Hosts guts empty, that he findes by his scores he can trust no more, then doe they at one time or other talke of state matters or of Religion, when the Goodman of the house can scarce stand on his legges vnder his owne roose, and trip him in some wordes, which the next day (being told of it, and the wordes iustified to his face) he knowes he dares not answere; with which booke holding his nose to the grindstone, they write their mind in great round Oes of chalke behind a doore, which Oes they call Stones, the weight of them being such, that looke how many shillings they make, so many times the wretched Hostesse cries O, as groaning vnder the burden. Now sir, of these Oes, twenty shillings make a load, and ten pound make a Barge full: which when they haue well freighted, these Dunkirkes hopst saile and to sea againe, they goe in another vessell to find another Braseman, that is to say, into another tipling house to find another Iade, whom they may all saddle and get vp vpon: if their last Host follow them with a Bailife or a Sergeant, they onely holde vp a finger, naming a Purseuant, and cry Mum, no more mine Host, you wot what: which wordes are of more power to blow him away, than if they fir'd him thence with traines of Gun-powder. By meanes of this lumpe, some Victualers haue leaped clean out of doores, and with the fall haue beene ready to lie in the streetes.

The third lumpe is called Fawning, those that leape at it are Fawne-guests, and that is done in the edge of an Evening, when
a Cheater

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a Cheater meeting a stranger in the darke, and taking him for another, gets the stranger by some sleight to a Tauerne, where calling for two pintes of sundry wines the drauer setting the wines downe with two cups, as the custome is, the Lumper tastes of one pinte (no matter which) and findes fault with the wine, saying tis too hard, but ife water and sugar would send it downe merily, and for that purpose takes vp one of the cuppes, telling the stranger he is well acquainted with the Boy at the Barre, and can haue two penny worth of Rosewater for a penny of him, and so steppes from his seate, the stranger suspecting no harme, because the Fawne-guest leaues his cloake at the end of the table behind him. But this Lumpe comming to be measured, it is found that he that went to take his rising at the barre, hath stolne ground, and out-leaped the other moze feet than he can recouer in back, for the cup is leaped away with him. for which the Wood-cocke that is taken in the sprindge, must pay fifty shillings or three pound, and hath nothing but an old thred-bare cloake, not worth ten groates to make amends for his losses.

The fourth Lumpe is called Foole-taking, and that is done severall wayes, sometimes by setting a couple of subtle rogues to sing ballads on a stall, till a number of people presse about them to buy their trash, and then their purses being discovered, are quickly in the Nips fingers. Others are Foole-taken by letting chambers to fellows like serving-men, in the name of such an Esquire, or such a Knight, or such a Captaine new come from the Low Countries, bying in a trunk exceeding heauy, and crambd full of bricke-bats, which is left in the hired chamber, and five times the value of it lifted away in stead of it. With this Lumpe many maide seruants, and their wealthy maisters haue beene over reached by counterfeit kinsmen that haue brought a cheese or a gammon of Bacon to the poore wench, claiming kintred of her whether she will or no, and after wardes being (for his cheese and bacon) invited to the Citizens table, haue in the night time taken away plate or other commodities in exchange of his white meates.


The fift Lumpe is called Spooone-meat, and that is a messe of knauery serued in about supper time in the edge of an euening likewise, It is done thus: A silly fellow in shew, attired like a clowne,

Clowne, spurnes (being neere some candle that stands on a stall) a paper before him, in which is wrapt by a spoone taking by which and looking on it by the light, & making it known (by his loud talking & wondering what he hath found) that he took it by chance, people flock about him, and imagine it is a silver and gilt spoon, so: it looks very faire, but he seeking to be an innocent corcombe, knowes not, he saies, what he should doe with such a ge-w-ga-we: wherenpon every one is catching at it, and offers him money for it, he wishes, hee had rather sound money, then such a bable, so: hee eates not his pottage in plate, in the ende, some for amongst all the Cubbes that stand about him, whispers in his eare, to haue it from all the rest, and thrusts a crowne priuily into his hand. The Jumper takes it, and sneakes away, the other gets home as fast as he can, longing to call his wife, all his household, and neighbors about him- to shew what a penny-worth hee met with, but the gilt spoone comming to be tried of what mettall he is made, the poore mans money proues copper, and he himself is laughed at for a Cor-combe.

How long shall I saile vpon these godlesse waters: Is it not time to get a Shore: Is it not fit that I should now sound a retreat and not weary my pen in the execution of such base and barbarous minded Castities: What a battaile haue I undertaken: and with what an ignoble enemy: to contend with whome, is an act inglorious, & to conquer whom (but that they are open and professed foes to the Republick, to honesty, to ciuillie, and to all humanitie) were as much dishonor as by them to be overcome. Who would imagine that a kingdome so fertill in all sorts of wholesome discipline, there should grow by such ranke and pestilent beds of Hemlocke? that in the very heart of a state so rarely governed and directed by good lawes, there should breed such loathsome and such vicerous impostumes: that in a City so politike, so ciuill, and so severe, such ugly, base and bold impieties dare shew their faces: what an Army of insufferable Abuses, detestable Vices, most damnable Vilanies abominable Pollutions, interpliable mischies, fordid iniquations, horrible and Hel-hound like perpetrated flagitious enormities haue beene here mustered together: under what diuellsish commanders are they conducted: what colours of damnation doe they fight vnder, what dismall Ensigne doe they

spread: what forces doe they bring into the field: how full of courage they are: how full of cunning? how politike are the Ringleaders of these Fayries: how resolute are al the troupes: what strange armour haue they (of subtilty, and desperate boldnes) to encounter and set vpon their opposites: what Artillery haue they to batter downe Order, Law, Custome, plaine dealing, and all the good guardes and defences of gouernement: What remaineth therefore (in an assault so dangerous to a common wealth, and so hotely and dayly prosecuted) but that Justice her selfe must come into the field, leading with her all her forces: What the Triple Body of the state may knit all their Nerues together and sit in Counsell, setting down stratagems and lawes how to race for euer (out of so noble a kingdom) such Rebels to the peace and honour of it: What the Reuerend Judges may out of a detestation of the liues of these monsters, locke vp their eyes and eares from pittie, when any of these Saues are caught and brought before them: What all inferior ministers of Justice may be vigilant, faithfull and seuer in haunting them into Gaoles, that are the fittest toyles for them to fall into, and that the Hangman may not be lazing and complaine for want of worke, so many infected bodies being to be found in euery corner of the land, whome no medicine can cure, but the phisicke which he bestowes vpon him at the Gallowes: Where I leaue them, as to the haue in which they must all cast anchor, if Dericks Cables do but hold, and vnlesse they amend. Give thanks to the Belman of London, if either profite or pleasure bee gained by this
 Discouery.

Operis



Operis Peroratio.

¶ A short Discourse of Canting, which is the
Language spoken by all the Ragged Regi-
ment, that serue vnder the colours
of the BELMAN.



Thus hath our Belman (like a faithful and watch-
full Centinell) walkt his round: An armie of a
most strange people hath bee mustred together:
In their true collours of villany hath he drawne
these Free-booters; their habite, their behavi-
ours and their properties, are to the life discou-
red: yet all this is but a dumb picture. It shall not be amisse there-
fore if I glue speech vnto it by lending it a tongue. In doing which
you may perceiue how polliticke a Common-wealth these Out-
lawes of the Kingdome maintaine among themselves. In deuising
not onely strange and subtill Stratagems to vphold them in a base
and sole licentious kinde of life, but also in inuenting a language
which none vnderstand but those that are Students in their damnable
Art, the better to couer their villanies, when they (in their talke)
practise to set them a bzoach.

My purpose notwithstanding in this is not to bestow vpon you
so liberall and full a discourse, as this matter doth require, but onely
at this time to giue you a taste of that which in a second part of
this booke shall (God willing) be more amply discouered. In which
second part, our Belman of London shall bring to light a number
of more notable enormities (dayly hatched in this Realme) then e-
uer haue yet beene published to the open eye of the world. These
are small spots, the other are the great blemishes, or rather the Vi-
cerous sores that make the body of Kingdomes appeare ugly and
deformed. A larger nette shall then be spread, and more dangerous
serpents shall fall into the snare, to the intent that their stings may
be pulled out, and all their payson may be drawne from them, to
make those that as yet know not how infectious they are, bee ca-
stade to approach or to be in sight of such denouring Monsters. Yet

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because I will not haue them bozne before their time (being yet but in the shell) least by that meanes they miscarry in their wood, and so you should be deceiued in your expectation: let vs in the meane time stand with attentine eares, and listen to an Vpright-man, whome I espie ready to encounter with a Wilde-Rogue: And this is t heir Dialogue.

A short Dialogue betweene an Vp-right-man and a Rogue
in the Canting-language.

The Upright Cofe Canteth to the Rogue.

1. *Upr.* **B**Ene lightmans to thy quarrones: in what lipken hast thou lipped in this darkmans? whether in a Libbege, or in the Strummell?

2. *Rog.* I couched a Hogsheed in a Skipper this darkmans.

3. *Upr.* I towre the Strummell tryne vpon the Nabchett and togman.

4. *Rog.* I say by the Salomon, I will lage it off with a gage of bene bowse, then cut to my nosewatch.

5. *Upr.* Why? hast thou any lowre in thy bung to bowse?

6. *Rog.* But a flag, a win, and a make.

7. *Upr.* Where is the ken that hath the bene bowse?

8. *Rog.* A bene Mort, hereby at the signe of the Prauncer.

9. *Upr.* I cut, it is quire bowse, I bowld a flag the last darkmans.

10. *Rog.* But bowse there a bord & thou shalt haue benship: towre yee, yonder is the ken, dupthe Giger and mawnd that is benship.

11. *Upr.* This bowse is as good as Rome bowse: now I towre that bene bowse makes nase nabs, mawnd of this Mort, what bene pecke is in her ken?

12. *Rog.* She hath a cackliug chefe, a grunting chefe, ruffe peck, Caflan; and poplars of yarum,

13. *Upr.* That is benship to our watch; now wee haue well bowld, let vs strike some chete: yonder dwelleth a quire cussen, it were benship to mill him. (is by.)

14. *Rog.* Nay, bing we a wast to the hyepad, theruffmans

15. *Upr.*

The Bel-man of London.

15. Vpr. So may we happen on the Harmans, and cly the Tarke, or to the quire ken, and scowre quire crampinges, and so to trymming on the chetes.

16. Rog. The Ruffian cly thee, farewell and be trinde,

This is their phrase, this the Rhetorick of our English Rogues, and this (upon aduice or occasion) they varie, putting out some wordes, and in their stead inuenting others moze newe. This was none of the language that was spoken at the Confusion of tongues, but this is a meere confusion in it selfe. And because you haue no Dictionaries, to giue you the English of these words, you shall haue the selfe same companions speake the same Dialogue in their owne naturall language.

¶ The Vpright-man speaketh to the Rogue.

1. Vpr: **G**od morrow to thy bodye, in what house hast thou lyen all night: in a bed or in the straw?
2. Rog. I slept in a Barne this night.
3. Vpr. I see the straw hang vpon thy cap and coate.
4. Rog. I sweare by the Masse, I wil wash it off with a quart of good drinke, and then talke to me what thou wilt.
5. Vpr. Why: hast thou any money in thy purse?
6. Rog. But a groat, a penny and a halfe penny.
7. Vpr. Where is the house, that has the good drinke?
8. Rog. It is a good wench hereby at the signe of the Horse.
9. Vpr. I say tis small and scurvie drinke, I drunke a groate there last night.
10. Rog. But drinke there a shilling, and thou shalt haue very good, see, yonder is the house, open the doore, and call for the best.
11. Vpr. This drinke is as good as wine, now I see that good drinke makes a drunken head: aske of this wench, what meat shee hath in the house?
12. Rog. She hath a Hen, a Pig, Bacon, Cheese, and milke-pottage.
13. Vpr. Thats very good for vs, now we haue drunke, lets steale somewhat: yonder dwels a churlish cozmozant, twere a good deed to rob him,

14. Rog. So we may chance to sit in the stocks, and be either
whipped or had to prison, and there be shackled with bolts and Fet-
ters, and then to be hanged on the gallows.

15. Vpr. The diuell take thee, farewell and be hang'd.

More of this Casting, with other matters of more worthy
note, shall be handled by our Bel-man, at his second walking up and
downe the Citty.

FINIS.

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